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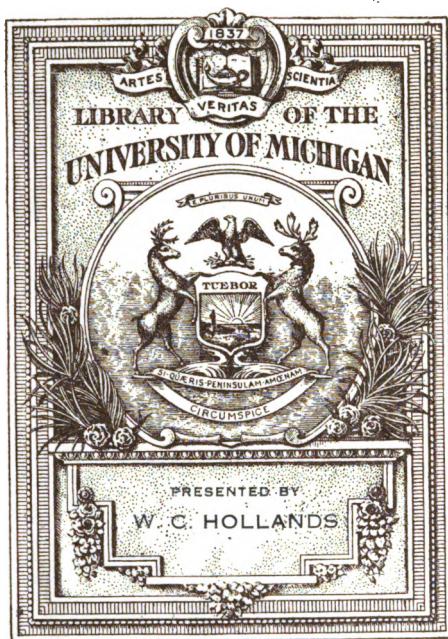
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Proceedings

Freemasons, Michigan.
Knights Tempars, Grand Commandery



H
7
M
A



R. Allen Hall.

PAST GRAND COMMANDER.

Thirtieth Annual Conclave

—OF THE—

Two Masons, Mich.

Grand Commandery

—OF—

Knights Templar,

OF MICHIGAN,

Held at Detroit, May 11 and 12, A. D. 1886, A. O. 768.



GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.;
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1886,



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Thirtieth Annual Conclave

—OF THE—

GRAND COMMANDERY
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
OF MICHIGAN.

1886.

THE Thirtieth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of the State of Michigan was held at the Asylum of Detroit Commandery, No. 1, in the city of Detroit, commencing on Tuesday, May 11, A. D. 1886, A. O. 768, at 10 o'clock A. M.

GRAND OFFICERS PRESENT.

Sir R. ALLEN HALL, Coldwater, R. E. Grand Commander.
Sir Wm. S. LAWRENCE, Kalamazoo, V. E. Deputy Grand Commander.
Sir THOMAS H. WILLIAMS, Jackson, E. Grand Generalissimo.
Sir EUGENE ROBINSON, Detroit, E. Grand Captain General.
Sir and Rev. FRANCIS A. BLADES, Detroit, E. Grand Prelate.
Sir CHARLES P. BIGELOW, Big Rapids, E. Grand Senior Warden.
Sir JOHN A. GEROW, Marshall, E. Grand Junior Warden.
Sir H. SHAW NOBLE, Monroe, E. Grand Treasurer.
Sir WILLIAM P. INNES, Grand Rapids, E. Grand Recorder.
Sir WILLIAM G. DOTY, Ann Arbor, E. Grand Standard Bearer.
Sir EDWARD C. SMITH, Pontiac, E. Grand Sword Bearer.
Sir HENRY P. ADAMS, St. Johns, E. Grand Warden.
Sir ALEXANDER MCGREGOR, Detroit, E. Grand Sentinel.
Sir HENRY B. RONEY, Saginaw, Grand Organist.

OPENING.

R. E. Grand Commander R. Allen Hall, assisted by the Grand, Past Grand Officers, Representatives and visiting Sir Knights present, proceeded to open the Grand Commandery in ample form.

PRAYER.

The Knights were led in solemn prayer by the Grand Prelate, after which the R. E. Grand Commander declared the Grand Commandery of Michigan opened in ample form and ready for the transaction of such business as may properly come before it.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.

It having been announced that Sir Hugh McCurdy, Past Grand Commander of Michigan, and V. E. Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment of the United States, was present in the ante room, the R. E. Grand Commander appointed an escort, under command of Sir Eugene Robinson, Grand Captain General, to receive and escort the distinguished frater to the asylum.

Sir McCurdy was then formally introduced to the Grand Commandery, and most cordially and fraternally welcomed by Sir R. Allen Hall, Grand Commander, in a speech full of deep regard for Sir Hugh, and with words that told of the high esteem entertained for him by the fratres of Michigan.

Sir Hugh—known as “our Hugh”—not to be outdone by Sir Allen, responded to the kindly sentiments expressed, in the following words:

RIGHT EMINENT SIR AND FRATRES—I am pleased to meet and greet you at this annual gathering, and fraternally reciprocate your warm reception to your hearthstones and your asylum.

Over eighteen centuries ago there was a splendid day in Rome. Augustus Cæsar was returning from the glorious victory at Actium. The entire city was filled with enthusiasm, and as the procession entered the portals of the city, with banners waving and flags flying, Augustus Cæsar well might feel that he was master, and that the panoplied soldiers who passed before him were but the servants of Rome.

Augustus Cæsar, however, will live in history but as a name and nothing more.

Nothing marks more distinctly the growth of civilization than the substitution of the victories of peace for the triumphs of war.

The splendid days in the history of Rome were those upon which their heroes returned from war. The splendid days in our history are the days of peaceful growth in all things truly ennobling. Whether it be to our credit or discredit, I leave you to decide; but certain it is that, as we advance to a more complete civilization, the observance of days kept in memory of some past victory on the field of battle, is rapidly becoming a thing of the past. Not that we love our heroes less, but we love our peaceful triumphs more. We have learned to work for the time,

"When the battle flags shall be furled
In the Parliament of man—the federation of the world.

"Then the common sense of most shall hold a fretful realm in awe,
And the kindly earth shall slumber, lapt in universal law."

And, Sir Knights, that universal law is the law of human brotherhood.

It is one of the cardinal tenets of Templar Masonry that he who keeps this law, keeps all law—he who offends in this, offends in all. You have come up here to legislate for the common brotherhood—not as master and servant, save that you are all servants of our Master, who founded his kingdom to perpetuate the three immortal ideas of Faith, Freedom and Fraternity. Upon these three ideas Templar Masonry was founded; upon our adherence to these alone our prosperity and growth depend. These three words comprehend the wealth of our past, the duties of the present hour, and the bow of promise of our future. In the temple of our worship these three words are dome, corner-stone and wall of defense. And we must not forget that freedom, faith and fraternity are not matters of partial, but of universal application. In the broad field of Templarism there must be no monopoly of its privileges and promises. Templar Masonry exists not for a class of men selected here and there among men; but it exists as an institution for the good of all men. If necessarily limited in membership to comparatively few, this very limitation is the ground of its universality. In common with every Order existing for the good of mankind, ours must have definite rules and distinct personality. The more definite our rules, the more personal the application of the principles of our Order, the more universal will they be. If we are here to legislate for a distinctive class, it is that we may return again to our individual altars and temple shrines, not only to carry the blessings

of peace and good will to these, but to send the spirit of fraternal love into every pathway of our lives, and to diffuse the spirit of Christian charity into every department of the household of mankind. In this sense only do we legislate for the few. And, Sir Knights, let me assure you that there never has been a time, since our Order was founded, when the widespread diffusion of its fundamental principles has been more useful than to-day—never a time when these principles have met with a more cordial and fruitful reception than they will meet with to-day. The aspects of these times demand that we not only legislate, but act and live always in perfect harmony with our exalted calling as Knights Templar.

We must remember that we have a right to exist only as we are of use to mankind—we must demonstrate our right to exist, not by reference to the deeds of the Knights without fear and without reproach of past ages, but by reference to our lives as true men to-day. If we are ever disposed to boast of our heritage, let us not forget that no man has a right even to accept an inheritance save on condition of improving it. Not what were your ancestors, but "what are you?" is the searching question of to-day. The question to-day is not what is your creed? But what is your life?

I stood a short time since a helpless spectator while the remorseless flames devoured my home with the fruits of years of toil, precious mementoes and records of the past—the life-time accumulations of gifts and treasures which never can be replaced, all reduced to ashes, and I powerless to save. Thus, thought I, must perish all written words, all memorials, all manuscripts of our lives. Upon all these is written, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. What one says or writes may become dust and ashes, but the good one does must live on forever. The purpose of usefulness alone immortalize our simplest acts. In your words of sympathy and deeds of kindness when these have been most needed by me, you have been most useful to me. And then as the years roll on, bringing adversity and prosperity, I am becoming more and more deeply attached to our Order, and more profoundly inspired with its usefulness to mankind. In devotion to this one purpose of making our lives gifts of use to others, we hold

"A nobler office upon earth
Than arms, or power of brain or birth
Could give the warrior kings of old."

Assembled here in this asylum of Templarism, may you know the seasons when to take

Occasion by the hand and make
The bonds of Faith, Freedom and Fraternity even wider yet.

"By shaping some august decree
To keep their throne unshaken still
Broad-based upon the people's will
And compassed by the inviolate sea."

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

The R. E. Grand Commander announced the following Sir Knights members of the special committee on credentials:

Sir William P. Innes, P. G. C.
Sir James Gray, E. C.
Sir George W. Mosher, P. E. C.

THE RECORDER TAKEN ILL.

At this juncture the Grand Recorder was taken suddenly and seriously ill and had to retire from the asylum.

THANKS.

To Past Grand Commander Edward D. Benedict, who magnanimously stepped forward and assumed the duties of Grand Recorder, we are under great obligations.

The Grand Recorder is also deeply indebted to every Sir Knight present for their knightly attention to him. One and all determinedly administered to his wants, and for the many acts of knightly courtesy shown him, each and every one has his most hearty God bless you!

To Sir Charles P. Bigelow, M. D., Grand Generalissimo, the Grand Recorder is under special obligations for his close attention and skillful treatment. His services will ever be held in kindest remembrance.

The Grand Recorder cannot forget the kind attention shown him by Mesdames Hall, Armstrong and Conover. In truth as well as poetry, they cast flowers in his pathway.

Thanks to one and all! thanks!

ADJOURNED.

On motion of Sir Benjamin Porter, P. G. C., the Grand Commandery adjourned until three o'clock this afternoon.

Afternoon Session.

FIRST DAY.

TUESDAY, 3:00 P. M.

THE Grand Commandery was called to order at 3:00 p. m., as per resolution of adjournment. Grand Officers and Representatives in their respective stations.

Past Grand Commander Edward D. Benedict acting as Grand Recorder.

ADMITTED TO SEATS.

On motion, all Sir Knights in good and regular standing were admitted to seats in the Grand Commandery during the present Conclave.

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

Sir Gray, for the special committee on credentials, submitted their report, which was accepted and re-committed to the committee for any amendments necessary to complete the same, as additional representatives might report during the conclave, and that when the same is completed and corrected, it be printed with the proceedings:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery, K. T., of Michigan:

Your committee on credentials would respectfully beg leave to report the following officers and members of the Grand Commandery entitled to seats at the present conclave:

GRAND OFFICERS.

Sir R. ALLEN HALL, - - -	R. E. Grand Commander.
Sir WILLIAM S. LAWRENCE, - - -	V. E. Dep. Grand Commander.
Sir THOMAS H. WILLIAMS, - - -	E. Grand Generalissimo.
Sir EUGENE ROBINSON, - - -	E. Grand Captain General.
Sir and Rev. FRANCIS A. BLADES, - - -	E. Grand Prelate.
Sir CHARLES P. BIGELOW, - - -	E. Grand Senior Warden.
Sir JOHN A. GEROW, - - -	E. Grand Junior Warden.
Sir H. SHAW NOBLE, - - -	E. Grand Treasurer.
Sir WILLIAM P. INNES, - - -	E. Grand Recorder.
Sir WILLIAM G. DOTY, - - -	E. Grand Standard Bearer.
Sir EDWARD C. SMITH, - - -	E. Grand Sword Bearer.
Sir HENRY P. ADAMS, - - -	E. Grand Warder.
Sir ALEXANDER McGREGOR, - - -	E. Grand Sentinel.

PAST GRAND OFFICERS.

Sir John Gilbert, P. G. C.	Sir William P. Innes, P. G. C.
Sir Luman R. Atwater, P. G. C.	Sir Benjamin Porter, P. G. C.
Sir Garra B. Noble, P. G. C.	Sir Edward D. Benedict, P. G. C.
Sir John H. Armstrong, P. G. C.	Sir John L. Mitchell, P. G. C.
Sir Oliver L. Spaulding, P. G. C.	Sir Leonard H. Randall, P. G. C.
Sir Salmon S. Matthews, P. G. C.	Sir Samuel C. Randall, P. G. C.
Sir Hugh McCurdy, P. G. C.	Sir Hollis F. Knapp, P. G. C.
Sir Frank Henderson, P. G. C.	Sir William B. Wilson, P. G. C.
Sir George W. Chandler, P. G. C.	Sir Jessa E. Saxton, P. G. C.
Sir Heman N. Moore, P. G. C.	Sir Charles T. Hills, P. D. G. C.
Sir Lewis C. Starkey, P. D. G. C.	

SUBORDINATE COMMANDERIES.

DETROIT, No. 1—

Sir Walter G. Seely, Eminent Commander.
Sir William Livingston, Jr., Generalissimo.
Sir Eugene Robinson, Captain General.
Sir Thomas H. Armstrong, P. E. C.
Sir John P. Fiske, P. E. C.
Sir Richard Rowland, P. E. C.
Sir William C. Maybury, P. E. C.
Sir James Findlater, P. E. C.

PONTIAC, No. 2—

Sir Joseph E. Sawyer, Eminent Commander.
Sir John A. Harris, Generalissimo.
Sir George H. Foster, Captain General.
Sir Augustus C. Baldwin, P. E. C.
Sir John P. Foster, P. E. C.
Sir Thomas F. Gerls, P. E. C.

EUREKA, No. 3—

Sir John T. Crume, Eminent Commander,
and proxy for Captain General.
Sir E. W. Kelly, P. E. C.,
and proxy for Generalissimo.
Sir Charles H. Putnam, P. E. C.
Sir H. T. Farnam, P. E. C.
Sir Robert A. Everett, P. E. C.
Sir James S. Galloway, P. E. C.
Sir Edward W. Kelley, P. E. C.
Sir George W. Mosher, P. E. C.

ADRIAN, No. 4—

Sir John W. Finch, Eminent Commander.
Sir George A. Fuller, Generalissimo.
Sir Benjamin F. Wheeler, Captain General.
Sir William E. Jewett, P. E. C.
Sir William F. King, P. E. C.
Sir Orsamus Lamb, P. E. C.

DE MOLAI, No. 5—

Sir Henry F. Hastings, Eminent Commander,
and proxy for Generalissimo.
Sir Charles W. Watkins,
proxy for Captain General.
Sir John W. Champlin, P. E. C.
Sir George E. Pantlind, P. E. C.

ROMEO, No. 6—

Sir James Gray, Eminent Commander,
and representative of Commandery.

PORT HURON, No. 7—

Sir Henry N. Botsford, Eminent Commander,
and representative of Commandery.
Sir George Duff, P. E. C.
Sir Fred L. Wells, P. E. C.
Sir Edgar White, P. E. C.
Sir Edward W. Harris, P. E. C.

PENINSULAR, No. 8—

Sir George W. Young, Eminent Commander.
Sir Oscar F. Coleman, Generalissimo.
Sir Riley P. Hobbs, Captain General.
Sir Washington W. Olin, P. E. C.
Sir Charles H. Brown, P. E. C.
Sir Theron F. Giddings, P. E. C.
Sir Wallace S. White, P. E. C.
Sir Lewis C. Starkey, P. E. C., and P. D. G. C.
Sir William S. Lawrence, P. E. C.
Sir Edwin Burdick, P. E. C.
Sir Abram T. Metcalf, P. E. C.

JACKSON, No. 9—

Sir Walter J. Heyser, Eminent Commander.
Sir Sanford Hunt,
proxy for Generalissimo.
Sir H. F. Hatch, Captain General.
Sir George W. Baker, P. E. C.
Sir Homer D. Fisher, P. E. C.
Sir Thomas H. Williams, P. E. C.
Sir Albert Stiles, P. E. C.
Sir Robert F. Latimer, P. E. C.

JACOBS, No. 10—

Sir Jefferson S. Conover, Eminent Commander
and proxy for Captain General.
Sir Charles R. Hutchinson,
proxy for Generalissimo.
Sir David Bovee, P. E. C.
Sir Sylvanus S. Scovill, P. E. C.
Sir Albert A. Dorrance, P. E. C.

IONIA, No. 11—

Sir Alfred H. Heath, Captain General,
and representative of Commandery.

NUES, No. 12—

Sir William J. Gilbert, Eminent Commander,
and representative of Commandery.

ANN ARBOR, No. 13—

Sir William W. Nichols, Eminent Commander.

Sir William A. Clark,
proxy for Generalissimo.

Sir Charles S. Fall, Captain General.

Sir Charles H. Richmond, P. E. C.

Sir Zina P. King, P. E. C.

Sir William D. Harriman, P. E. C.

Sir John R. Miner, P. E. C.

Sir William G. Doty, P. E. C.

FENTON, No. 14—

Sir Leonard E. Knapp, Eminent Commander.

Sir Burdick Potter, Generalissimo.

Sir Wilford P. Cook, Captain General.

GENESEE VALLEY, No. 15—

Sir Milton Pettibone, Eminent Commander.

Sir Henry C. Van Deusen, Generalissimo.

Sir George L. McQuigg, Captain General.

Sir Charles H. Wood, P. E. C.

Sir Zacheus Chase, P. E. C.

ST. BERNARD, No. 16—

Sir Lorenzo T. Durand, Eminent Commander.

Sir Aaron T. Bliss, Generalissimo.

Sir Robert B. McKnight, Captain General.

MARSHALL, No. 17—

Sir Norris J. Frink, Eminent Commander.

Sir Charles E. Gorham,
proxy for Generalissimo.

Sir Will S. Smith, Captain General.

Sir Charles F. Walters, P. E. C.

Sir Charles T. Fletcher, P. E. C.

Sir John T. Vernor, P. E. C.

Sir Seneca B. Smith, P. E. C.

Sir John W. Fletcher, P. E. C.

Sir John Adams, P. E. C.

COLUMBIA, No. 18—

Sir Henry L. Anthony, Eminent Commander.
Sir Henry S. Church, Generalissimo,
and proxy for Captain General.

MONROE, No. 19—

Sir A. I. Sawyer, Eminent Commander.
Sir Lewis Grant, Generalissimo.
Sir W. F. Haight, Captain General.
Sir H. Shaw Noble, P. E. C.
Sir Charles P. Toll, P. E. C.
Sir George R. Hurd, P. E. C.

CORUNNA, No. 21—

Sir Thomas Nelan, Eminent Commander.
Sir Albert T. Nichols, Generalissimo.
Sir Curtis C. Gale, Captain General.

MUSKEGON, No. 22—

Sir Charles T. Hills, Eminent Commander.
Sir William B. Wilson, Generalissimo.
Sir John R. Bennett, Captain General.
Sir Joseph Ireland, P. E. C.
Sir George D. Smith, P. E. C.

PILGRIM, No. 23—

Sir Simon G. Webster, Captain General,
and representative of Commandery.
Sir Calvin W. Nottingham, P. E. C.
Sir Charlie Gay, P. E. C.
Sir Charles P. Bigelow, P. E. C.
Sir W. Irving Latimer, P. E. C.

ST. JOHNS, No. 24—

Sir John D. Henderson, Eminent Commander.
Sir Galusha Pennell, Generalissimo.
Sir David S. French, Captain General.
Sir Henry P. Adams, P. E. C.
Sir A. J. Wiggins, P. E. C.

LANSING, No. 25—

Sir Benjamin F. Davis, Eminent Commander.
Sir Edward W. Sparrow, Generalissimo.
Sir Mayton J. Buck, Captain General.
Sir Wyllis C. Ransom, P. E. C.
Sir Leland H. Briggs, P. E. C.

BAY CITY, No. 26—

Sir Charles H. Pomeroy, Eminent Commander.
and representative of Commandery.

Sir Charles Frost Gibson, P. E. C.
Sir Henry A. Chamberlin, P. E. C.

LEXINGTON, No. 27—

Sir S. D. Runnels, Eminent Commander.
Sir Nicholas Wolfel, Generalissimo.
Sir Rudolph Papst, Captain General.

HOWELL, No. 28—

Sir H. N. Spencer, Eminent Commander.
Sir J. W. Wright, Generalissimo.
Sir F. G. Roundsville, Captain General.

THREE RIVERS, No. 29—

Sir Charles W. Backus, Eminent Commander.
Sir W. E. Clark, Generalissimo.
Sir William M. Ihler, Captain General.
Sir Albert C. French, P. E. C.
Sir L. S. Stephens, P. E. C.
Sir L. B. Hess, P. E. C.
Sir George C. Brissette, P. E. C.

LAKE SUPERIOR, No. 30—

Sir Francis M. Moore, Generalissimo,
and representative of Commandery.

APOLLO, No. 31—

Sir William G. Hudson, Eminent Commander.
Sir George N. Stray, Generalissimo.
Sir Henry A. Scott, Captain General.

MANISTER, No. 32—

Sir Edward D. Wheeler, Eminent Commander.
Sir Charles H. Hodskin, P. E. C., Generalissimo.
Sir Fred B. Baldwin, Captain General.

BATTLE CREEK, No. 33—

Sir Daniel R. Griswold, Eminent Commander.
Sir F. G. Shepard, Generalissimo.
Sir George W. Nichols, Captain General.
Sir Charles F. Bock, P. E. C.
Sir William Andrus, P. E. C.

ALPENA, No. 34—

Sir George L. Maltz, Eminent Commander,
and representative of Commandery.

MENOMINEE, No. 35—

Sir David Barclay, Captain General,
and representative of Commandery.
Sir Samuel M. Stephenson, P. E. C.

IVANHOE, No. 36—

Sir James Buckley, Eminent Commander.
Sir Levi W. Cole, Captain General.

CHARLOTTE, No. 37—

Sir Daniel B. Ainger, Eminent Commander.
Sir William P. Lacey, Generalissimo.
Sir Parm S. DeGraff, Captain General.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The R. E. Grand Commander proceeded to deliver his annual address, as follows:

Grand Commander's Address.

Sir Knights, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery, K. T. of Michigan:

THROUGH the watchful care of our Heavenly Father, we are permitted to meet in this our thirtieth annual conclave, to legislate for the best interests of Templar Masonry in our jurisdiction.

As we gather around our Sacred Altar, let us each pledge ourselves, anew, to live more closely to the teachings of our noble Order, and as Knights Templar let our light so shine before men, that they, seeing our good works, may glorify our Father who is in Heaven.

CHARLOTTE COMMANDERY.

At the last conclave of this Grand Commandery a charter was granted to certain Sir Knights of Charlotte to form a Commandery of Knights Templar, at the city of Charlotte, and to be known as Charlotte Commandery, No. 37, K. T.

Their petition, for the formation of a Commandery, was first presented to this Grand Body in 1883, and had the recommendation of the nearest Commandery, viz.: Lansing, No. 25.

This recommend, with all the papers in the case, became, *and still remains*, the *exclusive* property of this Grand Commandery, and are recorded on page 49, proceedings 1883.

When the petition was presented in 1885, "the committee on charters and dispensations," wishing to find out all the facts in the case, asked the representatives of Lansing Commandery, No. 25, "if this recommend, given to the Sir Knights of Charlotte in 1883, had ever been reconsidered or rescinded?"

This question was asked by Past Grand Commander Mitchell, also by Eminent Sir Conover, as members of the committee, and upon receiving the reply that Lansing Commandery, No. 25 had never reconsidered or rescinded the recommend, the committee on charters and dispensations made their report as follows:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee on charters and dispensations would respectfully report as follows:

A petition has been placed in our hands for consideration, signed by eighteen Sir Knights residing in the city of Charlotte, asking that a charter or dispensation be granted by this Grand Commandery for a new Commandery, to be located in the city of Charlotte; and it is satisfactorily shown by evidence, and corroborated by the records of this Grand Commandery (see page 40, proceedings of 1888), that the said Sir Knights of Charlotte were duly recommended for this purpose to this Grand Body by the nearest Commandery—Lansing, No. 25—about two years ago: which recommendation has never been reconsidered or rescinded by said Lansing Commandery.

Your committee have also carefully considered the arguments presented by the Sir Knights from Charlotte and Lansing, in relation to the establishing of a Commandery at Charlotte, which arguments we find by far strongest in favor of such new Commandery.

We find also that the jurisdiction and the material therein, comprising, as it will, four chapters with two hundred and forty-seven Royal Arch Masons, and ten Blue Lodges and seven hundred and ninety-seven Master Masons, are such as would assure a large and successful Commandery.

Your committee would therefore recommend:

1. That it is the sense of this Grand Body that the recommendation by said Lansing Commandery, No. 25, heretofore given, as shown upon the records of this Grand Commandery, still remains in full force and effect.
2. That the prayer of the petitioners be granted, and that a charter be issued for a new Commandery, to be located in the city of Charlotte, and known as Charlotte Commandery, No. —.

All of which is courteously submitted.

JOHN L. MITCHELL,
HENRY P. ADAMS,
JEFFERSON S. CONOVER,
Committee.

After considerable discussion the report of the committee was acted on in two sections, and adopted.

1. That it is the sense of this Grand Body that the recommendation by said Lansing Commandery, No. 25, heretofore given, as shown upon the records of this Grand Commandery, still remains in full force and effect.
2. That the prayer of the petitioners be granted, and that a charter be issued for a new Commandery, to be located in the city of Charlotte, and known as Charlotte Commandery, No. —.

It was further resolved that the report of the committee, as a whole, be adopted. (See pages 39 and 40, proceedings 1885.)

By this action, you will see that this Grand Body decided that the recommendation heretofore given by Lansing Commandery, having never been reconsidered or rescinded, remains in full force and effect.

After this action, Sir Nelson B. Jones, proxy for the Eminent Commander of Lansing Commandery, No. 25, gave notice to this Grand Commandery that Lansing Commandery felt aggrieved at the action of this Grand Body in granting a charter to Charlotte, and that they (Lansing Commandery) would appeal to the Grand Encampment of the United States against the action of this Grand Body. (See page 40, proceedings 1885.)

At the afternoon session of the same day, when the Grand Commandery resumed their labors, Sir Nelson B. Jones asked permission to address the Grand Commandery on a question of privilege; which, being granted, he proceeded in a very courteous and magnanimous manner to extend to the Sir Knights of Charlotte the hearty support and good-will of Lansing Commandery, No. 25, and gave notice that Lansing Commandery would withdraw notice of appeal and all objections of whatsoever kind and nature, "and hoped their future would be as prosperous as their fondest wishes could contemplate."

Sir Knights, that was a scene never to be forgotten, and was a most magnificent example of that courtesy we claim for this "valient and magnanimous Order of Knights Templar," and made us all feel that there is something in our Order beyond the mere name.

It looked to all as though this strife was at an end, and that the "Angel of Peace" would continue to hover over our Order in this jurisdiction.

May 16, I received the following letter from E. Sir Leland H. Briggs, Eminent Commander of Lansing Commandery, No. 25:

ASYLUM LANSING COMMANDERY, NO. 25, K. T. }
LANSING, MICH., May 15, 1885. }

Sir R. Allen Hall, Grand Commander of Michigan:

R. E. SIR—I have deemed it proper to call a special meeting of Lansing Commandery, No. 25, K. T., for Tuesday evening next (the 19th) for the purpose of considering the question of taking an appeal to the Grand Encampment from the recent action of Grand Commandery in granting a charter for a Commandery at Charlotte. And from the very general expression of members with whom I have conversed on the subject, I have no doubt but that such appeal will be ordered.

In view of this fact, I very courteously request—in justice to Lansing Com-

mandery—that you stay further proceedings in the case until advised of our action on Tuesday next, of which you will be duly informed. Please acknowledge, and oblige.

(Signed.)

Yours very courteously,

LELAND H. BRIGGS, E. C.,

Lansing Commandery, No. 25, K. T.

I replied as follows:

GRAND COMMANDERY K. T. OF MICHIGAN, }
OFFICE OF GRAND COMMANDER, }
COLDWATER, MICH., May 16, 1885. }

Sir Leland H. Briggs, E. C. Lansing Commandery, No. 25, K. T., Lansing, Mich.:

EMINENT SIR—Yours of the 15th received, and contents noted.

I am very sorry to learn that Lansing Commandery, No. 25, K. T., contemplate an appeal to the Grand Encampment in relation to the formation of a Commandery at Charlotte, especially after the very courteous and Knightly conduct of Sir Jones, representative of Lansing Commandery, No. 25. K. T., in the Grand Commandery, offering, in behalf of his Commandery, to heal the breach existing between his Commandery and the Sir Knights of Charlotte; and, in behalf of his Commandery, withdrawing all objections of "whatever kind and nature," and pledging them the hearty support of Lansing Commandery.

I very much doubt if Lansing Commandery can sustain such appeal under the circumstances, as Sir Jones, under his proxy, was authorized to represent your Commandery in the Grand Commandery of Michigan "as fully and completely" as the officers of your Commandery could do were they personally present.

I do hope, Eminent Sir Briggs, that Lansing Commandery, at their meeting Tuesday evening, May 19, will look at this matter calmly, and not be too hasty in deciding to appeal to the Grand Encampment, that the peace and harmony of this Grand Jurisdiction may remain unbroken.

With best wishes, I remain,

Very courteously yours,

R. ALLEN HALL,

Grand Commander.

May 23, I received notice from Lansing Commandery that they had appealed, and June 3 I received copy of appeal.

In my action in this case I took the grounds that, under all the circumstances, Lansing Commandery had no right, either morally or legally, to appeal from the action of the Grand Commandery of Michigan, as the representatives acting for and under the seal of Lansing Commandery having given notice that Lansing Commandery would appeal, and afterwards withdrawing all objections was virtually abandoning the appeal. And article 6, section 1—appeal—Code of statutes of the Grand Encampment, reads: "An appeal taken and abandoned leaves the judgment in full force."

*B

With this understanding of the law, I refused to recognize their right of appeal. Notwithstanding this, Lansing Commandery did appeal to the acting Grand Master of the Grand Encampment.

All the papers in this case are hereby submitted, and will be placed in the hands of the proper committee.

COMMANDERY INSTITUTED.

June 24, St. John's day, I instituted Charlotte Commandery, No. 37, K. T. I was ably assisted by the following officers of this Grand Body:

V. E. Sir William S. Lawrence, Deputy Grand Commander.
E. Sir Thomas H. Williams, Grand Generalissimo.
E. Sir Hiram F. Hatch, *as* Grand Captain General.
Rev. and E. Sir Francis A. Blades, Grand Prelate.
E. Sir Charles H. Pomeroy, *as* Grand Senior Warden.
E. Sir John A. Gerow, Grand Junior Warden.
E. Sir Joseph P. Tomlinson, *as* Grand Treasurer.
E. Sir William P. Lacey, *as* Grand Recorder.
E. Sir William G. Doty, Grand Standard Bearer.
E. Sir Edward C. Smith, Grand Sword Bearer.
E. Sir Henry P. Adams, Grand Warden.
E. Sir George W. Rowley, *as* Grand Sentinel.

Also Past Grand Commanders Benjamin Porter, Edward D. Benedict, John L. Mitchell, and Hollis F. Knapp; and Eminent Commanders H. F. Hastings, Walter J. Heyser, Norris J. Frink, Thomas Nelan, George W. Young and Jefferson S. Conover; and Past Eminent Commanders George W. Baker, Albert Stiles and George E. Pantlind.

De Molai Commandery, No. 5, fifty swords.

Jackson Commandery, No. 9, sixty-five swords.

Marshall Commandery, No. 17, thirty-eight swords.

Battle Creek Commandery, No. 33, forty-two swords, and a large number of Sir Knights from other Commanderies through the state.

After reading the charter and instituting the Commandery, the following officers were installed by V. E. Sir William S. Lawrence, Deputy Grand Commander, assisted by E. Sir Jefferson S. Conover, *as* Grand Marshal:

D. B. Ainger, Eminent Commander.
W. P. Lacey, Generalissimo.
Parm S. De Graff, Captain General.
Charles M. Jones, Prelate.
J. S. Cole, Senior Warden.
A. D. Baughman, Junior Warden.

E. S. Lacey, Treasurer.
E. T. Church, Recorder.
W. J. Bonnett, Standard Bearer.
P. D. Patterson, Sword Bearer.
W. G. Blymer, Warden.
Samuel Pollock, First Guard.
Frank A. Ells, Second Guard.
James Landon, Third Guard.
George W. Rowley, Sentinel.

After the ceremonies, the Commanderies formed and marched to the spacious lawn of Sir E. T. Church, where they were served with an elegant banquet provided by the citizens of Charlotte, over four hundred Sir Knights and their wives participating.

The city presented a holiday appearance. All the business places and many private residences were handsomely decorated in honor of the event, and it was truly "Knights Templar Day" in Charlotte.

Under a dispensation granted, twenty-three petitions for the orders of Knighthood were received and elected, and the order of Red Cross conferred upon six candidates by Jackson Commandery, No. 9.

NEW COMMANDERY.

July 18, I received a petition, dated June 6, signed by twenty-six Sir Knights residing at Hancock, Houghton county, and recommended by Lake Superior Commandery, No. 30, for the formation of a Commandery at Hancock; and as these Sir Knights were so isolated, and obliged to go the distance of eighty-five miles to attend a Commandery meeting, and having the means and material for keeping up a good Commandery, I issued a special dispensation for the forming of a Commandery of Knights Templar at Hancock, to be known as Montrose Commandery, No. —, and named the following Sir Knights as officers:

John Duncan, as Eminent Commander.

Frank A. Douglass, as Generalissimo.

Edward F. Douglass, as Captain-General.

Application will be made to you to charter this new Commandery, and I would respectfully request you to grant the same.

Applications have been received for the forming of other Commanderies, but the time being so near this meeting of the Grand Commandery, I have refused to issue dispensations, and recommended the petitioners to apply to this Grand Body.

STATE ENCAMPMENT.

At the last conclave of this Grand Commandery it was decided to hold a State Encampment at such time and place as the Grand Council might select. (See page 42, proceedings 1885.)

The Grand Council had several meetings at Jackson and Charlotte, but could not decide the question, and finally advised the following circular issued to the several Commanderies:

GRAND COMMANDERY K. T. OF MICHIGAN,
OFFICE OF THE GRAND COMMANDER,
COLDWATER, MICH., July 11, 1885.

Sir ——, *E. C.*, —— *Commandery, No. —, K. T.:*

EMINENT SIR—The Grand Commandery of Michigan, having appointed the Grand Council a committee to determine a time and place for holding a State Encampment (see page 42, proceedings 1885); and the Grand Council, wishing to obtain the views of the different Commanderies in relation to the same, you are hereby requested to call a special conclave of your Commandery at once and vote upon the following questions:

1. Are you in favor of a State Encampment?
2. Will your Commandery attend Encampment September 2, 3, and 4?
3. If so, how many will attend?

Please report the action of your Commandery to me as early as July 22.

Very courteously yours,

R. ALLEN HALL,

Grand Commander.

We received answers from thirty-one Commanderies, nineteen voting *no*, twelve *yes* (five not reporting), and the answers to question number three, namely: "How many will attend," being so small, the Grand Council thought best to abandon the Encampment, feeling that it would be much better to abandon it than to make it a failure.

We regretted this action, as the Encampment was unavoidably abandoned last year.

DISPENSATIONS.

Pontiac, No. 2, was granted dispensation to elect Recorder to fill vacancy caused by the death of Past Eminent Commander Samuel H. Norton.

Peninsular, No. 8, and Charlotte, No. 37, to elect Recorders, and St. Johns, No. 24, to elect Captain General, these officers being unable to serve.

Dispensations were granted the following Commanderies to observe Memorial Day: Adrian, No. 4; Jackson, No. 9; Genesee Valley, No. 15; St. Bernard, No. 16; Marshall, No. 17; Pilgrim, No. 23; St. Johns, No. 24; Bay City, No. 26, and Alpena, No. 34.

The following were given permission to join in the memorial services in honor of General Grant: Port Huron, No. 7; Peninsular, No. 8; Muskegon, No. 22; Bay City, No. 26, and Apollo, No. 31.

De Molai, No. 5; Peninsular, No. 8; Jacobs, No. 10; Ann Arbor, No. 13; Manistee No. 32, and Charlotte, No. 37, were granted dispensations to receive and ballot on petitions without waiting the required time, the reasons given being deemed sufficient and due notice being given their members.

I granted a dispensation to Detroit, No. 1, to hold their regular meeting January 8, their regular falling on New Years.

The following Commanderies asked permission to remove to new Asylums:

June 9, to Pilgrim, No. 23.

August 15, to Ann Arbor, No. 13.

September 1, to Battle Creek, No. 33.

October 9, to Niles, No. 12.

Which were cheerfully granted, and I wish to congratulate these Commanderies on this evidence of their zeal.

I granted dispensations to the following Commanderies to appear as escort to the M. W. Grand Lodge, F. & A. M., on the occasions named:

Pilgrim No. 23—Dedication of Masonic Temple at Big Rapids, June 24.

De Molai No. 5—Laying Corner Stone of new City Hall at Grand Rapids, September 9.

Ann Arbor No. 13—Dedication of Masonic Temple at Ann Arbor, September 4.

Niles No. 12—Dedication of Masonic Temple at Niles, October 20.

I issued a dispensation to Menominee Commandery, No. 35, to accept a courteous invitation from the R. E. Grand Commander of Wisconsin to attend the State Encampment K. T., held at Neenah, July 21 to 25 inclusive.

I granted several dispensations to Commanderies to go into camp for the purpose of drill and instruction; also to visit sister Commanderies for exchanging work.

These visits are not only pleasant, but profitable, and conducive of great good to the Commanderies, especially where the wives of the Sir Knights accompany them on their pilgrimages, as that has a tendency to elevate us, not only in our own eyes, but in the community at large.

I have had the pleasure of accompanying my Commandery on several pilgrimages, also assisting them to entertain their visiting fraters, and have noticed with pleasure the increase in interest in the meetings

of the Commandery, and increase in applications for the orders of Knighthood, and would advise all the Commanderies in this jurisdiction to adopt the idea of exchanging visits with sister Commanderies.

DISCIPLINE.

October 5, St. Johns Commandery, No. 24, presented a grievance against their Eminent Commander, and requested my immediate attendance.

October 6, accompanied by Right Eminent Sir Wm. P. Innes, Grand Recorder, I visited St. Johns Commandery, No. 24, (the Eminent Commander being present) and listened to their grievance; and believing, from the evidence produced, that St. Johns Commandery had good cause for such grievance, and that the best interests of Templar Masonry in this jurisdiction demanded some action of mine, I did, on the twelfth day of October, indefinitely suspend the Eminent Commander of St. Johns Commandery, No. 24, from office, and placed the Commandery in charge of the Generalissimo until their next annual conclave, or until the cause of such grievance should be removed.

March 6, St. Johns Commandery, No. 24, requested me, under their seal, to reinstate their Eminent Commander, the cause of grievance having been removed.

March 21, I reinstated the Eminent Commander of St. Johns Commandery, No. 24, to all his rights and benefits as Eminent Commander.

OFFICIAL VISITS.

I intended, at the beginning of my term of office, to visit most, if not all, the Commanderies in our jurisdiction, but sickness and other engagements prevented my doing so. I did, however, visit a few of the Commanderies, and was pleased to see the interest manifested in the work and drill of the Order.

August 12, I visited Jackson, No. 9, in camp. This Commandery, several years ago, adopted the idea of going into camp every year for a social time, and for the purposes of drill and improvement, and the high position they occupy is largely due to this means.

November 13, I visited Columbia, No. 18. This Commandery is located in a new asylum, and is doing good work.

January 13, I witnessed the work of Charlotte Commandery, No. 37, in the asylum of Jackson, No. 9. The work was rendered in a very impressive manner, and I bespeak for Charlotte Commandery a brilliant future.

February 17, I met with Battle Creek Cominandery, No. 38, and witnessed their work on the Red Cross. They have a beautiful asylum and are doing good work.

February 19, I visited Peninsular Commandery, No. 8, and witnessed the Order of the Temple. The work was finely done, and fully up to the high standard enjoyed by this Commandery so many years.

March 26, I had the pleasure of visiting Ann Arbor Commandery, No. 13, in their beautiful asylum.

Ann Arbor, No. 13, is twenty-one years old, and celebrated the event by conferring the Orders upon twenty-one candidates this year.

GRAND ENCAMPMENT.

I have received communications from several Grand Commanderies in relation to proposed amendments, and other matters, to be presented at the next Triennial meeting of the Grand Encampment, which demand your serious consideration. I would advise that this matter be submitted to a special committee to report at this meeting.

GRAND COMMANDERY HEADQUARTERS.

December 15, I received a proposition from the Lindell Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri, to furnish this Grand Body headquarters during the Triennial Conclave to be held in that city next September, at the rate of forty dollars per day, and as the desirable accommodations were being rapidly taken, I called a meeting of the Grand Council at Jackson, December 18, to consider the proposition. They, after fully investigating the matter, decided to engage headquarters at the Lindell Hotel.

I would advise this Grand Body to make a suitable appropriation for the same.

CONCLUSION.

And now, Eminent Sir Knights, as I am about to return to you the high honor you conferred upon me one year ago, I wish to thank each and every one for the many acts of courtesy you have shown me; especially are my thanks due to Right Eminent Sir Wm. P. Innes, Grand Recorder, for the advice and assistance so freely given.

I have tried to do my duty, as I understood it, taking as my motto: "Do right as God gives you to see the right."

R. ALLEN HALL,

Grand Commander.

DIVISION AND REFERENCE.

On motion, the address of the R. E. Grand Commander was referred to a committee of three for division and reference.

THE COMMITTEE.

The R. E. Grand Commander announced the following Sir Knights members of such committee:

Sir Edward D. Wheeler, E. C.

Sir Sanford Hunt.

Sir Thomas Nelan, E. C.

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

Sir Hugh McCurdy offered the following amendment to the constitution, to stand as section four, which, on motion, was read and ordered printed with the proceedings for action at next conclave:

The annual meeting of this Grand Commandery shall be held at such place as a majority of all shall determine, on the third Tuesday of May, in each year, at two o'clock P. M., at which meeting the officers for the ensuing year shall be elected by ballot, and no Sir Knight shall be eligible to office in this Grand Body unless he shall be at the time a member of a subordinate Commandery within this jurisdiction.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

The R. E. Grand Commander announced the following Sir Knights members of the several standing committees:

JURISPRUDENCE—

Sir Gara B. Noble, P. G. C.

Sir Hollis F. Knapp, P. G. C.

Sir George W. Chandler, P. G. C.

APPEALS—

Sir Norris J. Frink, E. C.

Sir William J. Gilbert, E. C.

Sir Shubal D. Runnels, E. C.

FINANCE—

Sir Ed. D. Benedict, P. G. C.

Sir Albert Stiles, P. E. C.

Sir Walter G. Seeley, E. C.

CHARTERS AND DISPENSATIONS—

Sir John W. Finch, E. C.
Sir Henry F. Hastings, E. C.
Sir George L. Maltz, E. C.

RETURNS OF SUBORDINATES—

Sir Calvin W. Nottingham, P. E. C.
Sir Benjamin F. Davis, E. C.
Sir Charles W. Backus, E. C.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS—

Sir William G. Hudson, E. C.
Sir John R. Miner, P. E. C.
Sir Daniel R. Griswold, E. C.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE—

Sir William P. Innes, P. G. C.
Sir John H. Armstrong, P. G. C.
Sir Heman N. Moore, P. G. C.

TEMPLAR DEAD—

Sir and Rev. Francis A. Blades, G. Prelate.
Sir Luman R. Atwater, P. G. C.
Sir Samuel C. Randall, P. G. C.

DIVISION AND REFERENCE.

The committee to whom was referred the address of the R. E. Grand Commander for division and reference, submitted the following report, which, on motion, was accepted and adopted:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery, K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee, to whom was referred the address of the R. E. Grand Commander, having considered the same, would respectfully recommend as follows:

That so much as refers to the institution of Charlotte Commandery, and the appeal of Lansing Commandery, be referred to a special committee of three.

That so much as refers to "new Commanderies" and dispensations be referred to the committee on charters and dispensations.

That so much as refers to "State Encampment" be referred to a special committee of three.

That so much as refers to amendments to be presented to the Grand Encampment, be referred to the committee on jurisprudence.

That so much as relates to Grand Commandery headquarters at St. Louis be referred to the Grand Council, with power to act.

Courteously submitted,

EDWARD D. WHEELER,

SANFORD HUNT,

THOMAS NELAN.

Committee.

PETITION.

On motion of Sir Luman R. Atwater, P. G. C., the petition of the Sir Knights of Northville, to form and open a Commandery at that place, together with the accompanying papers, was referred to the committee on charters and dispensations.

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

On motion of Sir Garra B. Noble, P. G. C., the amendment to the constitution, offered by him at last conclave, and printed with the proceedings, (see page thirty-five, proceedings 1885,) which reads as follows: "Amend section seven, article three, of statutes of Grand Commandery, by striking out all after the word "receive," in twelfth line, and insert the words, "such salary as the grand body may order." Also amend section twelve, article three, by inserting, "and Past Grand Commander" after the word "officers," in second line, and strike out the word "three" in third line, and insert "five," and strike out the word "two," and insert "three" in third line, were taken from the table, and, upon motion, were voted upon separately, and declared adopted.

The effect of the amendment fixes the pay of grand officers at three dollars per diem, and ten cents for each mile traveled *one way*, and the salary of the Grand Recorder, such sum as the Grand Commandery may see fit to vote at each annual conclave.

ADJOURNED.

On motion, the Grand Commandery adjourned until 7:30 p. m.

Evening Session.

FIRST DAY.

TUESDAY, 7:30 P. M.

THE officers and representatives in their respective stations. Sir Edward D. Benedict, P. G. C., acting as Grand Recorder.

ASCENSION DAY.

Rev. and Sir Francis A. Blades, chairman of the special committee appointed at the last conclave, to prepare a ritual and form of service to be used at the church or asylum, as also at the cemeteries, (see page forty-five, proceedings 1885,) submitted the following report, which was accepted and adopted:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery, K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee, to whom was committed the work of preparing a service for the proper observance of Ascension Day, as recommended at the last meeting of this Grand Commandery, (see report of committee, page forty-five, of proceedings of last year,) beg leave to report—

1. The following for the service when held in church, hall or asylum:

Ascension Day-Knights Templar Service.

The Procession will enter the Church in the following order.

- I. Cross Bearer.
- II. Sir Knights by twos, with Banner.
- III. Standard Bearer with Beausant.
- IV. Officers of the Commandery.
- V. Officiating Clergy.

The following hymn will be sung as the Sir Knights enter the church, asylum or other suitable place.

(Sir Knights will enter uncovered, and after the clergy have passed through the lines will take their position in the pews, at a signal from the Captain General, and remain standing, at uncover.)

ONWARD, CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS.

Onward, Christian soldiers,
 Marching as to war,
 With the cross of Jesus
 Going on before;
 Christ, the royal Master,
 Leads against the foe;
 Forward into battle,
 See, his banners go.

CHORUS—Onward, Christian soldiers,
 Marching as to war,
 With the cross of Jesus
 Going on before.

Like a mighty army,
 Moves the church of God,
 Brothers, we are treading
 Where the saints have trod.
 We are not divided,
 All one body we.
 One in hope, in doctrine,
 One in charity.

CHORUS—Onward, Christian soldiers, etc.

Onward, then ye people,
 Join our happy throng,
 Blend with ours your voices,
 In the triumph song;
 Glory, laud and honor,
 Unto Christ the King,
 This through countless ages
 Men and angels sing.

CHORUS—Onward, Christian soldiers, etc.

¶ Sir Knights still standing.

PRELATE--The Lord is in His Holy Temple!

THE KNIGHTS (responding)--Let all the earth keep silence before Him.

PRELATE--From the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same.

KNIGHTS--My Name shall be great among the Gentiles.

PRELATE--And in every place incense shall be offered unto My Name, and a pure offering.

KNIGHTS--For My Name shall be great among the heathen, saith the Lord of Hosts.

PRELATE--Break forth unto joy, sing together, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem.

KNIGHTS--For the Lord hath comforted His people; He hath redeemed Jerusalem.

PRELATE--Christ is risen and gone up on High.

KNIGHTS--The Lord is risen indeed, and ever liveth to make intercession for us.

PRELATE--Blessing and honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne;

KNIGHTS--And unto the Lamb forever.

EMINENT COMMANDER--Sir Knights, to your devotions, kneel.

¶ Then kneeling, will be said by all--

(Chapeau held on right shoulder.)

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

¶ Then the Prelate shall say :

O Lord, open Thou our lips.

KNIGHTS--And our mouths shall show forth Thy praise.

EMINENT COMMANDER--Arise, Sir Knights.

(Before rising, the Sir Knights will deposit chapeau.)

¶ Here, all standing up--

PRELATE--Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

KNIGHTS--As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

PRELATE—Praise ye the Lord.

KNIGHTS—The Lord's Name be praised.

¶ Then will be read responsively, all still standing, the three following Psalms, the Prelate taking one verse, Sir Knights and congregation the next, and so on. The Gloria Patri will be sung at the end of each of the first two, and the Gloria in Excelsis at the end of the last.

DOMINI EST TERRA.

Psalm xxiv.

1. The earth is the Lord's, and all that therein is; the compass of the world, and they that dwell therein.

2. For He hath founded it upon the seas, and prepared it upon the floods.

3. Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall rise up in His holy place?

4. Even he that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; and that hath not lifted up his mind unto vanity, nor sworn to deceive his neighbor.

5. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

6. This is the generation of them that seek him; even of them that seek thy face, O Jacob.

7. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in.

8. Who is the King of Glory? It is the Lord, strong and mighty, even the Lord, mighty in battle.

9. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in.

10. Who is the King of Glory? Even the Lord of Hosts; He is the King of Glory.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

OMNES GENTES, PLAUDITE

Psalm xlviij.

1. O clap your hands together, all ye people; O sing unto God with the voice of melody.

2. For the Lord is high, and to be feared; He is the great King upon all the earth.

3. He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet.

4. He shall choose out an heritage for us, even the worship of Jacob, whom he loved.

5. God is gone up with a merry noise, and the Lord with the sound of the trump.

6. O sing praises, sing praises unto our God; O sing praises, sing praises unto our King.

7. For God is the King of all the earth; sing ye praises with understanding.

8. God reigneth over the heathen; God sitteth upon His holy seat.

9. The princes of the people are joined unto the people of the God of Abraham; for God, which is very high exalted, doth defend the earth as it were with a shield.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

BENEDIC ANIMA MEA.

Psalm ciii.

1. Praise the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, praise His holy Name.

2. Praise the Lord, O my soul; and forget not all His benefits.

3. Who forgiveth all thy sin, and healeth all thy infirmities;

4. Who saveth thy life from destruction, and crowneth thee with mercy and loving kindness;

5. Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things, making thee young and lusty as an eagle.

6. The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment, for all them that are oppressed with wrong.

7. He showed His ways unto Moses, His works unto the children of Israel.

8. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, long suffering, and of great goodness.

9. He will not always be chiding; neither keepeth He His anger forever.

10. He hath not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

11. For look how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth; so great is His mercy also toward them that fear Him!

12. Look how wide also the east is from the west; so far has He set our sins from us!

13. Yea, like as a father pitileth his own children, even so is the Lord merciful unto them that fear Him.

14. For he knoweth whereof we are made; He remembereth that we are but dust.

15. The days of man are but as grass; for he flourisheth as a flower of the field.

16. For as soon as wind goeth over it, it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

17. But the merciful goodness of the Lord endureth for ever and ever upon them that fear Him; and His righteousness upon children's children.

18. Even upon such as keep His covenant, and think upon His commandments, to do them.

19. The Lord hath prepared His seat in Heaven, and his kingdom ruleth over all.

20. O praise the Lord, ye angels of His, ye that excel in strength; ye that fulfill his commandments, and hearken unto the voice of His words.

21. O praise the Lord, all ye His hosts; ye servants of His that do His pleasure.

22. O speak good of the Lord, all ye works of His, in all places of His dominion; praise thou the Lord, O my soul.

¶ Sir Knights remain standing.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS.

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God, the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ: O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord; Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

¶ Then, all being seated, will be read

THE FIRST LESSON—II KINGS II; 1-12.

¶ Then, all standing, will be sung—

BONUM EST CONFITERI.

Psalms xcii.

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O Most Highest.

To tell of Thy loving kindness early in the morning, and of Thy truth in the night season:

Upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the lute; upon a loud instrument, and upon the harp.

For Thou, Lord, hast made me glad through Thy works; and I will rejoice in giving praise for the operations of Thy hands.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

¶ Then, all being seated, will be read

THE SECOND LESSON—ST. LUKE XXIV: 44 TO END.

¶ Then, all standing, will be sung

DEUS MISEREATUR.

God be merciful unto us and bless us, and show us the light of His countenance, and be merciful unto us.

That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations.

Let the people praise Thee, O God; yea, let all the people praise Thee.

O let the nations rejoice and be glad; for Thou shalt judge the folk righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.

Let the people praise Thee, O God; yea, let all the people praise Thee.

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase; and God, even our own God, shall give us His blessing.

God shall bless us; and all the ends of the world shall fear Him.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

EMINENT COMMANDER.—Attention, Sir Knights! draw swords; present, swords.

THE APOSTLES' CREED.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Catholic Church; the communion of Saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*C

EMINENT COMMANDER—Return swords.

PRELATE—The Lord be with you:

KNIGHTS—And with thy spirit.

¶ Then, all kneeling, he will say:

PRELATE—O Lord, show Thy mercy upon us.

KNIGHTS—And grant us Thy salvation.

PRELATE—O God, make clean our hearts within us;

KNIGHTS—And take not Thy Holy Spirit from us.

PRELATE—Let us pray.

THE PRAYERS.

¶ The Collect for Ascension Day.

Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe Thy only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to have ascended into the heavens, so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with Him continually dwell, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

¶ And after that, the Collects and Prayers following:

¶ A Collect for Peace.

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed, give unto Thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey Thy commandments, and also that by Thee, we being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time and rest in quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

¶ A Collect for Aid against Perils.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, by whose Almighty power we have been preserved this day, by Thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night, for the love of Thy only Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

¶ A Prayer for the President of the United States, and all in civil authority.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, the high and mighty Ruler of the universe, who dost from Thy throne behold all the dwellers upon earth, most heartily we beseech Thee with Thy favor to behold and bless Thy servant, The President of the United States, and all others in authority, and so replenish them with the grace of Thy Holy Spirit that they may always incline to Thy will and walk in Thy way. Endue them plenteously with heavenly gifts; grant them in health and prosperity long to live; and finally, after this life, to attain everlasting joy and felicity; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

COMMEMORATION OF OUR ORDER.

PRELATE.—We remember, O Lord, and we beseech Thee to remember, all the members of our Order, and all our faithful brethren and companions wheresoever dispersed throughout the world. Bless them in their lying down and in their rising up, in their going out and in their coming in. Fill Thou their basket and their store. Go with them in their journeyings. Abide with all whom they may leave behind, so that in joy returning, they may find in peace remaining, with a grateful sense of Thy mercies, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

KNIGHTS.—We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.

PRELATE.—We remember, O Lord, and we beseech Thee to remember, all the lawfully constituted bodies of the Order of the Grand Encampment of the United States, and all our Commanderies, grand and constituent. Bless them with peace, prosperity and piety, and direct them in all their doings with Thy most gracious favor, that in all their works, begun, continued and ended in Thee, they may glorify Thy Holy Name, and finally by Thy mercy obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

KNIGHTS—We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.

PRELATE.—We remember, O Lord, and we beseech Thee to remember all the officers of our Order, and especially the Most Eminent Grand Master and officers of the Grand Encampment of the United States, the Very Eminent Grand Commander and other officers of the Grand Commandery of Michigan, and the Eminent Commander and officers and members of this Commandery here assembled in Thy name and presence. May the words of their mouths, and the meditations of their hearts, and the actions of their lives, be always acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer.

KNIGHTS.—We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.

SPECIAL PRAYERS.

¶ A General Thanksgiving.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, Thine unworthy servants, do give Thee most humble and hearty thanks for all Thy goodness and loving kindness to us and unto all men. We bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech Thee, give us that due sense of all Thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we may show forth Thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to Thy service, and by walking before Thee in holiness and

righteousness all our days through Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

¶ A Prayer of St. Chrysostom.

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto Thee, and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in Thy name, Thou wilt grant their requests; fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of Thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of Thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

¶ 2 Cor., xiii. 14.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with you all, evermore. Amen.

¶ All standing.

HYMN.

Christian warriors, to the pealing
Of the solemn vesper bell,
Round the tri-form altar kneeling,
Round the tri-form altar kneeling,
Whisper each, Emanuel.

When the watch and ward are over,
Guarding the asylum well,
Smiles of peace around them hover,
Smiles of peace around them hover,
At thy name, Emanuel.

When some deed of empire sharing,
Deeds like those traditions tell,
Prompts each Knight to noble daring,
Prompts each Knight to noble daring,
'Tis for thee, Emanuel.

When the storm clouds darkly lower
On our pathway dark and fell,
Knights heroic will not cower,
Knights heroic will not cower,
Cheered by thee, Emanuel.

THE SERMON.

¶ All standing.

HYMN.

Soldiers of Christ, arise,
And put your armor on,
Strong in the strength which God supplies,
Through his eternal Son.

Strong in the Lord of Hosts,
And in His mighty power,
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts,
Is more than conqueror.

Stand then in His great might,
With all His strength endued ;
And take, to arm you for the fight,
The panoply of God.

That having all things done,
And all your conflicts past,
Ye may behold your victory won,
And stand complete at last.

¶ All kneeling.

COLLECT.

O God, the King of Glory, who hast exalted thine only Son, Jesus Christ, with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven; we beseech Thee leave us not comfortless; but send to us Thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Savior Christ is gone before, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

BENEDICTION.

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost be amongst you, and remain with you always. Amen.

EMINENT COMMANDER--Arise, Sir Knights.

CAPTAIN GENERAL--Re-cover.

RECESSSIONAL HYMN.

¶ To be sung as the Sir Knights are passing out.

"CORONATION."

All hail the power of Jesus' name;
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all.

Crown Him, ye martyrs of our Lord,
Who from His altar call;
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod,
And crown Him Lord of all.

Hail Him, the heir of David's Line,
Whom David Lord did call;
The God incarnate! man divine!
And crown Him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe,
On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all.

2. Ascension Day memorial service for Templar dead:

Ascension Day Memorial Services.

NOTE.—1. Committees shall be appointed by the Commandery, composed of Knights Templar, their wives, mothers and daughters, and any citizens who will cordially render their aid in such service.

At the time of such service, said committee shall be stationed at the several graves of Knights Templar near the place where the service is held in the cemetery, and at a signal from the Eminent Commander (by bugle call, or otherwise), shall simultaneously decorate the grave of each Sir Knight with a cross of evergreens, or flowers, and such other floral decorations as the Commandery shall direct.

The graves of Sir Knights remote from the place where the service is held, may be decorated before or after the formal service, but with the same decoration of a cross or flowers.

2. On Ascension Day, the Commandery shall meet at the asylum at o'clock and, under order of the Captain-General, with standard, jewels and swords properly draped, shall march to the cemetery.

At the cemetery, the Commandery will halt and form avenue, and at present swords, the officers of the Commandery and clergy will pass through the lines to their places on the platform or stand, when the Commandery may be displayed in the form of a cross or triangle, or may be disposed of as the circumstances will best admit, at the discretion of the officer in command.

EMINENT COMMANDER—*Sir Knights*: There is one sacred spot upon the earth where the footfalls of our march are unheeded, our trumpets quicken no pulse and incite no fear, the rustling of our banners and the gleam of our swords awaken no emotion—it is the silent city of the dead, where we now stand. Awe rests upon every heart, and the stern warrior's eyes are bedewed with feelings which never shame his manhood. It needs no siege, nor assault, nor beleaguering host to enter its walls. We fear no sortie, and listen for no battle shout. No Warden's challenge greets the ear, nor do we wait a while with patience for permission to enter.

Hither must we all come at last, and the stoutest heart and the manliest form that surrounds me will then be led a captive, without title or rank, in the chains of mortality and the habiliments of slavery to the King of Terrors.

But if we have been faithful to the Captain of our Salvation—true soldiers of the cross; if we have offered suitable gifts at the shrine of our Lord, and bear the signet of the Lion of the tribe of Judah, then may we claim to be of that princely house, and to be admitted to audience with the Sovereign Master of heaven and earth. Then will we be stripped of the chains of earthly captivity, and clothed in a white garment glistening as the sun, and be seated with princes and rulers, and partake of a libation, not of death and sorrow, but of that wine which is drank forever new in the Father's kingdom above.

We cannot come here without subdued hearts and softened affections. Often, as the challenge comes which takes from our side some loved associate—some cherished companion in arms, and often as the trumpet sounds its wailing notes to summon us to the deathbed, and to the brink of the sepulchre, we cannot contemplate "the last of earth" unmoved. Each successive death-note snaps some fibre which binds us to this lower existence, and makes us pause and reflect on that dark and gloomy chamber where we must all terminate our pilgrimage. Well will it be for our peace, then, if we can wash our hands, not only in token of sincerity, but of every guilty stain, and give honest and satisfactory answers to the questions required.

The sad and solemn scene now before us in this city of the dead stirs up these recollections with a force and vivid power which we have hitherto unfelt. Those who now slumber in that last, long, unbroken sleep of death, were our brothers. With them have we walked the pilgrimage of life, and kept watch and ward together in its vicissitudes and trials. They are now removed beyond the effect of our praise or censure. That we loved them, our presence here evinces, and we remember them in scenes to which the world was not witness, and where the better feelings of humanity were exhibited without disguise. That they had faults and foibles is but to repeat what their mortality demonstrates—that they had a human nature, not divine. Over those errors, whatever they may have been, we cast, while living, the mantle of charity; it should, with much more reason, enshroud them in death. We who have been taught to extend the point of charity, even to a foe, when fallen, cannot be severe or merciless toward loved fratreſ.

The memory of the virtues of our fallen fratreſ lingers in our remembrance, and reflects its shining lustre beyond the portals of the tomb. The earthen vase which has contained precious odors, will lose none of its fragrance though the clay be broken and shattered. So be it with our fratreſ memory.

¶ The Senior Warden then presents a cross to the Prelate, who, holding it up, shall say—

PRELATE—This symbol of faith—the Christian's hope and the Christian's trust—we again place upon the breasts of our brothers, there to remain till the last trumpet shall sound, and earth and sea shall yield up their dead. Though it may, in the past history of our race, have been perverted at times into an ensign of oppression, and crime, and wrong; though it may have been the emblem of fraud, and superstition, and moral darkness, yet its significance still remains as the badge of a Christian warrior. It calls to mind Gethsemane and its sorrowful garden; the judgment hall of Pilate, and the pitiless crown of thorns; Golgotha and Calvary, and their untold agonies, that man might live and inherit everlasting life. If an inspired Apostle was not ashamed of the cross, neither should we be; if he gloried in the significance of the truths it shadowed forth, so ought we to rejoice in it as the speaking witness of our reliance beyond the grave. This hope of the living, we trust, was the anchor to the souls of our departed brethren—the token to admit them to that peaceful haven “where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest.”

¶ At the close of this declaration by the Prelate, the Eminent Commander shall give a signal (by bugle call, or otherwise), when the Prelate, at one grave, and the committees stationed at the several graves shall simultaneously place the cross, and such other floral decorations as shall have been provided, on the graves of the deceased Sir Knights. This done—

† Commandery shall stand with folded arms and bowed heads.

DIRGE—BY THE BAND.

PRELATE—The orders of Christian Knighthood were instituted in a dark period of the world's history, but their mission was high and holy. To succor and protect the sorrowing and destitute, the innocent and oppressed, was their vow and their life-long labor and duty. For long, long years, they well and nobly performed their vows and did their devoirs. In those rude ages, the steel blade was oftener the arbiter of justice than the judgments of judicial tribunals, or the decrees of magistrates. So long as the Templars adhered to their vows of poverty, they were virtuous and innocent, and their language was, in truth—“Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have, give I unto thee.” But, with the accession of wealth and civil power, they were tempted, and fell from their high estate, and their possessions attracted the cupidity, and their prowess incurred the hatred of the despots of those times. When the martyred De Molay had perished, and the Order was proscribed, they united with the fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, and returned to their primitive simplicity of man-

ners; and a rough habit, coarse diet, and severe duty was all that was offered to their votaries.

In our land we have perpetuated only the distinctive rites with the appellations and regulations of the defenders of the Holy Sepulchre—the early champions and soldiers of the cross—and this as a guerdon of merit, not a badge of rank. The sword, in our hands, is more as a symbol of the duties we are vowed to fulfill, than as an instrument of assault or defence. We claim to exercise practical virtues in the holy bonds of our confraternity, in humble imitation of those renowned knights of the olden time; for there is still, in this refined age, innocence to be guarded, widowed hearts to be relieved of their burdens, and orphanage to be protected from the chill blasts of a wintry world. And to be true and courteous is not limited to any age or clime.

Sir Knights, let us pray:

Almighty and most merciful God! we adore Thee as the Sovereign Ruler of all events, both in time and for eternity. As it hath pleased Thee to take from our ranks those dear to our hearts, we beseech Thee to bless and sanctify unto us all the dispensations of Thy providence. Inspire our hearts with wisdom from on high, that we may glorify Thee in all our ways. May we have Thy divine assistance, O most merciful God! to redeem our misspent time; and in the discharge of the important duties Thou hast assigned us, in our moral warfare here below, may we be guided by faith and humility, courage and constancy, to perform our allotted pilgrimage acceptably in Thy sight, without asking a remission of years from Thee. And when our career on earth is finished, and the sepulchre appointed for all the living receives our mortal bodies, may our souls, disengaged from their cumbersome dust, flourish and bloom in eternal day, and enjoy that rest which Thou hast prepared for Thy good and faithful servants, in Thy blessed asylum of peace beyond the vales of earth. All which we ask through the meditation of our Redeemer, King of kings, and Lord of Lords, who taught us when we pray, to say:

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen!

RESPONSE—Amen, and Amen and Amen!

¶ Then will be sung one of the following hymns.

Friend after friend departs.
Who hath not lost a friend?
There is no union here of hearts
That finds not here an end:
Were this frail world our only rest,
Living or dying, none were blest.

Beyond the flight of time,
Beyond this vale of death,
There surely is some blessed clime
Where life is not a breath,
Nor life's affection transient fire,
Whose sparks fly upward to expire.

There is a world above,
Whose parting is unknown;
A whole eternity of love,
Formed for the good alone;
And faith beholds the dying here
Translated to that happier sphere.

Thus star by star declines,
Till all are passed away,
As morning high and higher shines,
To pure and perfect day!
Nor sink those stars in empty night;
They hide themselves in heaven's own light.

Why should our tears in sorrow flow
When God recalls His own,
And bids them leave a world of woe
For an immortal crown?

Is not e'en death a gain to those
Whose life to God was given?
Gladly to earth their eyes they close,
To open them in heaven.

Their toils are past, their work is done,
And they are fully blest;
They fought the fight, the victory won,
And entered into rest.

Then let our sorrows cease to flow—
God has recalled His own;
But let our hearts, in every woe,
Still say, "Thy will be done."

THE ADDRESS.

¶ Commandery standing.

PRELATE—We spend our years as a tale that is told. The days of our years are three score years and ten; and if, by reason of strength, they be four score years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off and we fly away. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

RESPONSE—Teach us, Oh Lord!

PRELATE—For He knoweth our frame. He remembereth that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass. As a flower of the field, so he flourisheth; for the wind passeth over it, and it is gone, and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him.

RESPONSE—Show mercy, Oh Lord!

PRELATE—We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this incorruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

RESPONSE—O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

PRELATE—The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

RESPONSE—Thanks be to God!

PRELATE—I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me: Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them.

RESPONSE—Thanks be unto God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

EMINENT COMMANDER—Shall the memory of our departed brothers fade from among men?

RESPONSE—It is cherished in our souls forever.

EMINENT COMMANDER—Shall no record be left of their virtues and worth?

RESPONSE—They are inscribed upon our hearts; they are written in our archives. The heart may cease to throb, and the archives may

moulder and decay, but the tablets of the Recording Angel on high can never perish.

¶ Then will be sung the following closing hymn.

Precious in the sight of heaven
Is the scene where Christians die;
Souls with all their sins forgiven,
To the courts of glory fly;
Every sorrow, every burden.
Every cross they lay it down;
Jesus gives them richest guerdon
In His own immortal crown.

Knights of Christ! your ranks are broken;
Close your front, the foe is nigh!
Shield to shield, behold the token,
As He saw it in the sky.
By this sign, so bright, so glorious,
You shall conquer! if you strive;
And like them, though dead, victorious,
In the sight of Jesus live.

BENEDICTION.

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost be amongst you, and remain with you always. Amen!

¶ Commandery returns to Asylum.

FRANCIS A. BLADES,
CHAS. P. BIGELOW,
EUGENE ROBINSON,
Committee.

Report of committee was accepted and adopted.

On motion, Sir F. A. Blades was directed to have printed 4,000 copies of the service as reported, and that the roll of Commanderies be called by numbers, to subscribe for the number of copies needed of said service.

GRAND RECORDER'S REPORT.

The report of the Grand Recorder was read by Sir Benedict, and, on motion, same was accepted, adopted, and ordered printed with the proceedings:

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

Another Templar year has gone, and is numbered with the cycles of years past; its failures and errors, as well as the good that may have been accomplished, are now a matter of record.

The past is finished; the mighty present is with us; and the responsibility for the future is before us.

We are here to legislate and to receive reports from such of the officers as custom has made a duty: therefore, as your Grand Recorder, it is my pleasure, as well as considered duty, to give a summary of the transactions of the office of Grand Recorder during the past year.

PROCEEDINGS.

With a reasonable degree of promptness, the proceedings of the last grand conclave were gotten out and distributed to all Grand and Subordinate Bodies and individual Sir Knights entitled to copies thereof.

GRAND ENCAMPMENT TAX.

The per capita tax due to the Grand Encampment of the United States has been paid to the Grand Recorder, as per regulations governing that matter, and the same has been properly receipted for.

REPRINT.

I call your attention to the report of your special committee on reprint of "early proceedings," found on pages 80 and 81 of the proceedings of the Grand Commandery for 1885; also the recommendations made by the committee, and which were adopted by your Grand Commandery after full discussion.

In accordance with said recommendation, your Grand Recorder proceeded with the work, and now reports the bound volumes have been distributed to the several grand bodies, and also to all our subordinates.

They were gotten up in good style, and your Grand Body have received the heartfelt thanks of Templar Masons throughout the land for preserving the early records, which had almost become extinct.

The copies forwarded to the Subordinate Commanderies were properly marked and numbered, and must make a valuable addition to their libraries.

As the manly forms of those who fought the "early fight" in the battle of Templar Masonry within our State disappear from our view, it would have been gratifying, we believe, to all who "come after," if pleasant reminders, in the way of likenesses, of all those valiant Knights,

had formed a part of our permanent history, and for that reason your Grand Recorder urged the procuring of the several likenesses of Past Grand Commanders for publication with reprint. That he failed was no fault of his, but more an oversight of those most deeply interested.

Singular as it may appear, some of my letters looking to that end remained unanswered, while others made excuses that did not appear to me warranted by the great importance of the matter.

SUBORDINATE COMMANDERIES.

A full compliance on the part of Recorders of Subordinate Commanderies, with request of Grand Recorder to forward returns with draft for dues on or before May 1, has enabled that officer to close his account promptly, and made his labors much less at this particular time.

He takes the present opportunity to return thanks for favors in this direction.

PAST GRAND COMMANDERS JEWEL.

Your Grand Recorder is requested by Past Grand Commander Heman N. Moore to tender his warm and most grateful thanks to this Grand Body for the elegant jewel voted him last year under the resolution offered by Past Grand Commander Garra B. Noble. (See page 52, proceedings 1885.)

He accepts it as the most precious gift of his life; he values it not alone for its intrinsic value (although that forms no small part), but as an endorsement by this Grand Body of his services in their behalf.

He gives his knightly word of honor that his best endeavors will ever be put forth to show by his actions that he duly appreciates the honor, and that by no act of his shall one spot be put upon it, and that after "life's fitful fever" he will hand it down to those who may come after him as bright and spotless as he received it. He begs me to say that words are too weak to convey to this Grand Body how truly he values this memento, and on his behalf to wish you all many years of prosperity and enjoyment as a Grand Body and individual Sir Knights.

With fraternal and knightly greeting to one and all, this report is
Courteously submitted,

Wm. P. INNES,
Grand Recorder.

The R. E. Grand Commander announced the following Sir Knights members of special committees, to whom was referred the subject matter contained in the address of the R. E. Grand Commander:

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTING CHARLOTTE COMMANDERY, AND APPEAL OF LANSING COMMANDERY.

Jefferson S. Conover, E. C.
George W. Young, E. C.
Henry L. Anthony, E. C.

COMMITTEE ON STATE ENCAMPMENT.

Daniel B. Ainger, E. C.
John T. Crume, E. C.
Leonard E. Knapp, E. C.

FINANCE.

Reports of the Grand Treasurer and Recorder, were, on motion, referred to the committee on finance.

CHARTERS AND DISPENSATIONS.

The standing committee on charters and dispensations, to whom was referred the application of the Sir Knights of Northville for a charter, submitted the following report, which was accepted and adopted:

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee on charters and dispensations beg leave to report in regard to the petition for a new Commandery to be stationed at Northville, Wayne county. Northville seems to be situated about equi-distant from Pontiac and Ann Arbor. The petition for a Commandery at Northville has been recommended by Detroit Commandery, No. 1; Pontiac, No. 2; Howell, No. 28, and Fenton, No. 14. The jurisdiction of each of these Commanderies will be affected by a Commandery at Northville. Ann Arbor Commandery has declined to recommend the formation of such a Commandery. From the statements which have been made to your committee, they are of the opinion that a dispensation can safely be granted them, and would so recommend.

All of which is courteously submitted.

JOHN W. FINCH,
HENRY F. HASTINGS,
GEO. L. MALTZ,

Committee.

STATE ENCAMPMENT.

The special committee, to whom was referred so much of the address of the Right Eminent Grand Commander as referred to the State Encampment, submitted the following report, which was accepted and adopted:

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee, to whom was referred that portion of the Right Eminent Grand Commander's report, in reference to the action taken by Grand Council in deciding not to arrange for a State Encampment, would respectfully report that they have given the subject due consideration, and that in their judgment the course pursued was entirely proper, and, under the circumstances, for the best interest of Templar Masonry of this jurisdiction.

Courteously submitted,

DANIEL B. AINGER,
JOHN T. CRUME,
LEONARD E. KNAFF,
Committee.

CHARTERS AND DISPENSATIONS.

The standing committee on charters and dispensations, to whom was referred the question of granting a charter to the Sir Knights at Hancock, working under dispensation granted by the Right Eminent Grand Commander, submitted the following report, which was accepted and adopted:

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee on charters and dispensations would recommend that a charter be granted to Montrose Commandery, located at Hancock, now working under dispensation, to be known as Montrose Commandery, No. 38.

All of which is courteously submitted.

JOHN W. FINCH,
HENRY F. HASTINGS,
GEORGE L. MALTZ,
Committee.

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SPECIAL ORDER..

On motion, the election of grand officers for the ensuing year was made the special order for the hour of 11 o'clock, to-morrow, Wednesday forenoon.

REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE.

On motion of Sir Edward D. Benedict, P. G. C., the report of the standing committee on correspondence was accepted, and ordered printed with the proceedings, (see appendix.)

ADJOURNED.

On motion, the Grand Commandery adjourned until the hour of 9 o'clock A. M. to-morrow, (Wednesday.)



Morning Session.

SECOND DAY.

WEDNESDAY, 9 A. M.

THE Grand Commandery was called to order by the R. E. Grand Commander, at the hour named at adjournment. Officers and representatives in their several stations.

P. G. C. Edward D. Benedict, acting as Grand Recorder. Prayer was offered by the Grand Prelate.

VOTE OF SYMPATHY.

Rev. and Sir Francis A. Blades submitted the following resolution of sympathy for the Grand Recorder in his present illness, which, on motion, was accepted and adopted by a rising vote of the Grand Commandery:

WHEREAS, The Eminent Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Michigan has been seriously ill at the present session of this Grand Commandery, and is still confined to his bed;

Resolved, That this Grand Commandery hereby tender the Eminent Grand Recorder, Sir Wm. P. Innes, our most heartfelt sympathies in his affliction, and offer our prayers most devout for his early recovery;

Resolved, That the Grand Commandery appoint as a committee to convey our fraternal greetings to Sir Innes, the Grand Council, and Past Grand Commander Sir John H. Armstrong, and Sir Jefferson S. Conover, and Mesdames R. A. Hall, J. S. Conover, J. H. Armstrong.

FRANCIS A. BLADES,
C. R. HUTCHINSON.

Committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

The standing committee on unfinished business submitted the following report, which was accepted and adopted:

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

The committee on unfinished business beg leave to report that they have examined the proceedings of last year and find that no business remains unfinished.

Courteously submitted,

W.M. G. HUDSON,

DANIEL R. GRISWOLD,

JNO. R. MINER,

Committee.

RITUAL.

P. E. C. George E. Pantlind, chairman of the committee on ritual, submitted the following report, which was accepted and adopted:

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee, to whom was delegated the duty of revising the ritual of this grand jurisdiction with reference to the adopted recommendations of the last session, beg leave to make the following report:

Your committee found, upon examining the rituals returned for correction, that they were exceedingly defective in copy, spelling, and especially punctuation and capitalization; that the labor of revising the same would call for more time from your committee than they could reasonably give to the task, with due regard to their business affairs, and that to employ some one else would be a large expense to the subordinate Commanderies. Considering these difficulties, and the great necessity of having each ritual an *exact* copy of the official work, besides the convenience of having the same in a handier and more compact form your committee decided to have the ritual printed, if possible. Your committee saw no reason why the same could not be printed, as long as the secrecy of the work could be maintained, provided it met with the approval of the subordinate Commanderies. Why not print it in full as well as write it in full? Your committee found out that not only had other grand jurisdictions, but also the Grand Encampment of the United States, printed their rituals.

A circular was, therefore, issued to obtain the sense of the different Commanderies upon the subject. This circular was responded to by thirty-two of the thirty-six Commanderies; thirty-one voting in favor of the printing, and one in favor, providing the committee had the right to do so.

Your committee thereupon, after due consideration and advice, printed the ritual, with the adopted revisions. The printing and binding was done by Sir Knight H. K. Dean, under the personal superintendence of your chairman, and the secrecy of the same was strictly maintained.

Copies of the ritual were sent to the different Commanderies, and proper receipts returned therefor. These receipts, together with the returned rituals, are now in the hands of your Grand Recorder.

Extra copies were printed, in order to give this grand jurisdiction a supply that would meet any demand it might have in the present or future.

These extra copies, although in the possession of your Grand Recorder, are unpaid for, and are consequently the property of Sir Knight Dean.

Courteously submitted,

GEO. E. PANTLIND,
For Committee.

LANSING AND CHARLOTTE COMMANDERIES.

Sir Knight Jefferson S. Conover, chairman of the special committee, to whom was referred that part of the address of the R. E. Grand Commander, relating to the appeal taken by Lansing Commandery, No. 25, against the granting a charter to Charlotte Commandery, No. 37, at the last conclave, submitted the following full and comprehensive report on the entire subject, which, on motion, was accepted, and after discussion thereon, was, on motion of P. G. C. Luman R. Atwater, unanimously adopted by a rising vote. Sir Atwater, in moving the adoption of the report, addressed the Grand Commandery, as follows:

I feel that I am but expressing the sentiments of this grand body when I say, I desire to thank this committee for the very able, elaborate, and lucid report they have made, as every Sir Knight can now vote understandingly.

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery, K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee, to whom was referred that portion of the R. E. Grand Commander's address, which relates to the controversy which has arisen between Lansing Commandery, No. 25, and this Grand Commandery, in consequence of the chartering of Charlotte Commandery, No. 37, by this grand body at its last annual conclave, and the appeal of said Lansing Commandery, No. 25, to the Grand Encampment of the United States, have had the same under careful consideration, and would respectfully report as follows:

We find the facts concerning this matter to be as stated by the R. E. Grand Commander in his address. We have also investigated the matter further, and ascertained the following additional facts:

At the annual conclave of this grand body in 1883, when the Charlotte Sir Knights first presented their petition for a charter, accompanied with a recommendation from Lansing Commandery, No. 25, after the committee on charters and dispensations had reported, P. G. C. John L. Mitchell made a motion, which was duly seconded, that a charter be granted the petitioners. During the discussion of this question, a statement was made to this grand body, by an eminent Sir Knight, speaking on behalf of Lansing Commandery, that at the time when the said recommendation was voted by Lansing Commandery to the Sir Knights at Charlotte, the Charlotte Knights who were members of said Lansing Commandery, and who had signed the petition for a new Commandery, were at the meeting in sufficient numbers, and by voting with the others who voted in favor of granting such recommendation, succeeded in making up a majority in its favor, which could not have been secured without the votes of said Charlotte members. After this statement had been made, this Grand Commandery, by vote, decided not to grant the charter at that time. In regard to that matter, the investigations of your committee have developed the following facts: At the meeting mentioned, of Lansing Commandery, when the vote was taken upon the question of granting to the Charlotte Knights, the recommendation asked for, but *three* Charlotte Sir Knights who were members of Lansing Commandery, were present, and *not one of them voted at all upon the question*.

At the annual conclave of this Grand Commandery in 1884, the Charlotte Sir Knights again presented their petition to this grand body, but did *not* present with *this* petition the recommendation aforesaid, of Lansing Commandery, and the committee on charters and dispensations reported as follows:

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee, to whom was referred the petition of thirty-four Sir Knights of Charlotte, asking for a charter to form a new Commandery at that place, have had the same under consideration, and are of the opinion that a strong Commandery could be maintained there, and would unanimously recommend granting them a charter; but article three, section four, constitution of Grand Commandery, prohibits the granting of a dispensation or charter for constituting a new Commandery, without a recommendation from the Commandery nearest to the place where the new Commandery is to be located; and as Lansing Commandery, No. 25, (the one nearest to the proposed new Commandery,) has refused such recommendation, your committee are of the opinion that said constitutional provision prohibits the granting of the prayer of the petitioners, without recommendation of Lansing Commandery.

Courteously submitted,

CHARLES T. HILLS,

JOHN P. FISK,

ARTHUR M. CLARK,

Committee.

This committee of 1884, says: "Lansing Commandery, No. 25, has refused such recommendation."

There was evidently an error, or else a misrepresentation of facts to that committee, upon which they based that portion of their report, as we shall show later in *this* report, by their own statements in the appeal made, that at *that* time Lansing Commandery had *never* refused such recommendation. Whether this misstatement was *intentional* or *unintentional*, we can only leave the members of this grand body to judge for themselves.

Previous to the annual conclave of this Grand Commandery in 1885, the Charlotte Knights, desiring again to present their petition to this Grand Commandery, acted upon advice previously received from R. E. Sir Jessa E. Saxton, who had told them that while he held the recommendation first voted by Lansing Commandery to be still perfectly valid, yet advised them, as a matter of courtesy to Lansing Commandery, to ask them for a *new* recommendation, which they accordingly did, and it was refused.

At the conclave of 1885, the Charlotte Sir Knights again presented their claims for the consideration of this Grand Commandery, and placed in the Grand Recorder's hands a package supposed by them to contain *all* the necessary papers in the case, which were referred to the committee on charters and dispensations. See page twenty-eight, proceedings 1885, reading as follows:

"The Grand Recorder, at the request of the petitioners for a new Commandery at Charlotte, presented certain papers relating thereto, and asked their reference to the standing committee on charters and dispensations. So referred." Upon investigating said package of papers, the petition was found to be missing, upon which a vigorous search was commenced by the Charlotte Knights, not for a "missing stone," but for the missing papers; but after "strict search and diligent inquiry had been made through the several apartments of the temple," and a diligent use both of telegraph and telephone with Sir Knights at home at Charlotte, "they could not be found nor heard of." A *new* petition was accordingly made out, signed by eighteen of the Sir Knights who were signers of the original petition, and this was placed in the hands of the committee on charters and dispensations, with the other papers.

That committee had a long session, during which there was a full and free interchange of opinion by the representatives from both Lansing and Charlotte. During this conference, the question was twice plainly asked by members of the committee, of the Sir Knights representing Lansing Commandery, whether said Lansing Commandery had *ever* voted in *any way* upon the re-considering or rescinding the vote granting the recommendation to the Charlotte Sir Knights, and the reply from the Lansing representatives was reluctantly, but plainly given, that *it never had been done*. That committee then unanimously agreed that the original recommendation was valid and in full force, notwithstanding the fact that at a *subsequent* meeting, when the Charlotte Knights asked for a *new* recommendation, it was not granted; holding that the vote, refusing a *new* recommendation, did not destroy the validity of the *old one*, which had been previously given, and was then the exclusive property of this Grand Commandery.

While before the committee, Sir Nelson B. Jones, who was present as proxy for the Eminent Commander of Lansing Commandery, made a statement that the petition for which the Charlotte Knights had been searching all day, was locked up in the archives of Lansing Commandery. That when the committee of Sir Knights from Charlotte visited Lansing Commandery, and asked for the new recommendation, the petition was laid down upon the Recorder's table, and was taken from there and locked up in the archives of that Commandery.

The Lansing Sir Knights also declared that they could not sustain their Commandery if they were to lose Charlotte and Eaton Rapids from their jurisdiction; but upon being closely questioned as to the amount of support Lansing Commandery could expect from those two places, in view of the existing controversy, frankly admitted that the

only support or assistance they had any reason to expect in future, was the annual dues from the ten members residing in Charlotte, and five in Eaton Rapids. They also stated here, in open Grand Commandery, that if the Charlotte Sir Knights would wait two years, they would then pledge them a *new recommendation*, and the support of their Commandery. If they were willing to promise the support of their Commandery *in two years*, there was no just cause why it should be withheld *now*, unless they intended, at the end of those two years, to claim that they had no right to thus pledge their Commandery. It seemed to the committee that the real issue with the representatives of Lansing Commandery was to defeat the Charlotte Knights *at that time*, trusting to matters that might arise in the future to enable them to do the same at any future time when the matter might come up.

The committee, becoming fully satisfied that the opposition of Lansing Commandery arose from a determination of the Sir Knights having that matter in charge to carry their point at any cost, and not from a sincere belief that any real injury would be done to Lansing Commandery by the establishing of a new one at Charlotte, and being *fully satisfied* that the original recommendation was still as valid as when given, made their report accordingly, and recommended the following resolutions:

“1. That it is the sense of this Grand Body that the recommendation by said Lansing Commandery, No. 25, heretofore given, as shown upon the records of this Grand Commandery still remains in full force and effect.

“2. That the prayer of the petitioners be granted, and that a charter be issued for a new Commandery, to be located in the city of Charlotte, and known as Charlotte Commandery, No. —.”

These recommendations were almost unanimously adopted by this Grand Body, and the charter granted as asked for. At this point, Sir Nelson B. Jones, speaking on behalf of Lansing Commandery, No. 25, gave notice that Lansing Commandery would appeal from the action of this Grand Commandery to the Grand Encampment of the United States, which was all perfectly proper, and which Lansing Commandery *then* had an undoubted right to do; *but*, at a subsequent afternoon session, on the same day, Sir Jones withdrew said notice of appeal, and pledged the new Commandery the cordial support of Lansing Commandery; and this action, according to all precedent and all parliamentary usage, would be considered the *end of all* controversy upon this subject.

This brings us down to the actions of the parties interested, subsequent to the adjournment of the Grand Commandery one year ago.

The Charlotte Sir Knights returned home, in due time received

their charter, and made arrangements for the constituting of their Commandery on June 24, last.

Soon after the adjournment of this Grand Body, Right Eminent Grand Commander Hall received from Eminent Sir Briggs, Eminent Commander of Lansing Commandery, No. 25, a letter, stating that he had called a meeting of his Commandery, to take action relative to an appeal to the Grand Encampment, which letter was read by Right Eminent Sir Hall in his address.

Right Eminent Sir Hall, supposing, as did all the Sir Knights who were present at that conclave of this Grand Body, that the whole controversy was, then and there, *fully and forever settled*, was, no doubt, much surprised at receiving such a letter, just after *all* objection of whatsoever kind or nature had been openly withdrawn by the representatives authorized to speak for Lansing Commandery, and his reply he gave in full in his address, and to which reference is hereby made.

Under date of May 20, the Right Eminent Grand Commander received the following letter from the Recorder of Lansing Commandery, No. 25, giving notice that that Commandery had voted to appeal from the action of this Grand Commandery:

ASYLUM LANSING COMMANDERY, No. 25, K. T. }
LANSING, MICHIGAN, May 20, 1885. }

R. Allen Hall, Coldwater, Mich., R. E. Grand Commander of Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Michigan:

RIGHT EMINENT SIR—Take notice that Lansing Commandery, No. 25, Knights Templar, did, on the 19th day of May, 1885, decide to appeal from the action of the Grand Commandery of Michigan, on the 13th day of May, 1885, in granting a charter for a Commandery to certain Knights at Charlotte, Mich., to the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, on the ground to be stated in the appeal, which will be forwarded as soon as copies of papers and records to accompany the same can be prepared.

By order of the Commandery.

Very courteously yours,

WILLIAM ENNIS,
Recorder.

On June 11, Eminent Sir Briggs wrote as follows to the Right Eminent Grand Commander:

ASYLUM LANSING COMMANDERY, No. 25, K. T. }
LANSING, MICHIGAN, June 11, 1885. }

R. Allen Hall, R. E. Grand Commander Knights Templar of Michigan, Coldwater, Michigan:

RIGHT EMINENT SIR—I was not a little surprised yesterday in seeing notice in

the Detroit Post, that Charlotte Commandery was to be constituted on the 24th inst., by the Grand Commander.

I beg to call your attention to clause two of section one of code of statutes of the Grand Encampment, which says that an appeal in *all cases* (except as to expulsion and indefinite suspension) *operate as a supersedeas*.

In the face of this statute, I fail to see any fairness or justice in this proceeding. If there is any legal authority that will warrant it, I would be pleased to have you point it out to me.

Inasmuch as Lansing Commandery has thought proper to appeal to the highest authority for a determination as to the rights in the matter, it is no more than right that it should expect to receive such consideration and protection as is guaranteed by Masonic law and usage.

In connection with this subject, and in reference to the old recommend of Lansing Commandery, I desire to call your attention to the Grand Master's ruling number twenty-eight, page forty-three, proceedings of Grand Encampment of 1883. Also to the report of the committee on jurisprudence, and the action of the Grand Encampment thereon, which will be found on page two hundred and sixty-nine of the same proceedings.

Very respectfully and courteously yours,

L. H. BRIGGS,

Eminent Commander Lansing Commandery, No. 25, K. T.

To this letter, Right Eminent Sir Hall replied as follows:

GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR, OF MICHIGAN, }
OFFICE OF GRAND COMMANDER. }
COLDWATER, MICH., June 13, 1884. }

*Sir Leland H. Briggs, Eminent Commander Lansing Commandery, No. 25, K. T.,
Lansing, Michigan:*

EMINENT SIR—Yours of the 11th received. In reply would say, I would refer you to article six, section one, of code of statutes of Grand Encampment, which reads: "*An appeal taken and abandoned, leaves the judgment in full force.*" I would also refer you to my letter of May 16th, and say I am of the same opinion still, viz: That Lansing Commandery, No. 25, had no right of appeal from the action of the Grand Commandery of Michigan, in granting a charter for the formation of a Commandery at Charlotte, after the withdrawal of *all objections "of whatever kind and nature"* by the *representatives* of Lansing Commandery in the Grand Commandery.

I have a confidence that the Grand Encampment will sustain my decision.

As far as injustice to your Commandery is concerned, I would say that *none is meant* by the proceedings, and if any injustice could be done in *this case, as it stands*, it would be to the Sir Knights of Charlotte in arresting their charter, until the Grand Encampment would restore it.

I must stand by the action of the Grand Commandery, and therefore cannot do otherwise than institute Charlotte Commandery, No. 37, whenever they desire.

Hoping that peace and harmony may soon be restored, I remain

Very courteously yours,

R. ALLEN HALL,
Grand Commander.

Under date of June 12, Eminent Sir Briggs wrote to the Grand Commander as follows:

ASYLUM OF LANSING COMMANDERY, K. T., No. 25, }
LANSING, MICH., June 12, 1885. }

Sir R. Allen Hall, R. E. Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of K. T., State of Michigan, Coldwater, Michigan:

RIGHT EMINENT SIR—I notice by the public press, and from a communication received yesterday, from certain Sir Knights resident at Charlotte, that it is your purpose, on the 24th of the present month, to invade the jurisdiction of this Commandery, and constitute a new Commandery therein without its consent.

Assuming that such is the fact, I desire hereby, in behalf of my Commandery, to protest against such action either by yourself in person or by your representative, and for the following reasons:

1. Because the attempt of the Grand Commandery of Michigan to charter a new Commandery within our jurisdiction without our consent, is a flagrant violation of the chartered rights of one of its subordinate, and of the statutes of the Grand Encampment of the United States.
2. Because such attempt is in utter disregard of the requirements of section four of article three of the statutes of the Grand Commandery of Michigan.
3. Because that Lansing Commandery having appealed from the action of the Grand Commandery of Michigan to the Grand Encampment of the United States, from the action of the former in the matters in such appeal recited, by virtue of the statutes of the said Grand Encampment, the further action of our Grand Commandery, and its officers, should be held in abeyance, pending the decision of the Grand Encampment on the appeal.

I do not think it necessary to refer the R. E. Grand Commander to the statutes or decisions upon which I base this protest, as his familiarity with them makes it unnecessary for me to do so. In conclusion, I most courteously but earnestly beg the R. E. Grand Commander to abandon the purpose of consummating a wrong upon Lansing Commandery, which I believe to be without a parallel in the history of Templar legislation in the United States.

Regretting that the evident intention of the Grand Commandery to despoil my Commandery of its chartered rights, compels me to resort to this extreme action in its behalf,

I remain very courteously yours,

LELAND H. BRIGGS,
Eminent Commander of Lansing Commandery, K. T., No. 25.

Again, on June 17, he writes the following letter, in which, you will observe, he accuses this Grand Commandery of acting in direct and wilful violation of its own laws, and insinuating that it is *pushing* this matter out of pure spite towards Lansing Commandery:

ASYLUM LANSING COMMANDERY, No. 25, K. T. }
LANSING, MICH., June 17, 1885. }

R. Allen Hall, Grand Commander Knights Templar of Michigan, Coldwater, Michigan:

RIGHT EMINENT SIR—Yours of 18th inst. received. I am familiar with the code to which you refer, and I fail to see how you can make it applicable in the case in question, as Lansing Commandery has not abandoned the appeal. The representative of our Commandery, without any instructions whatever in this matter, gave notice *only* that the Commandery would appeal and afterwards withdrew such notice. He had no authority to lodge an appeal, in fact could not do so for the Commandery, except by vote of the Commandery, and as no such vote or action had been taken at that date, it is absurd to presume that he or his action could estop the Commandery in any manner.

The article you quote refers to an appeal—an act accomplished—which only becomes operative on the filing of the proper papers under seal, and by order of the Commandery, with the proper official of the body appealed to. A notice of an appeal is a very different thing. Supposing our representative had not withdrawn the notice, and Lansing Commandery had declined to take any action in the matter. How would this leave the subject? Under your construction of the law the appeal would hold, and yet there would be no complainant.

Even if this notice of withdrawal, could by any possibility be construed to operate as an abandonment in that particular instance, it would not debar the Commandery, or any member of the Commandery, or of any other Commandery in Michigan, from taking another or as many appeals as might be deemed proper. Would be pleased to have you refer me to any Masonic law to the contrary.

One thing seems very strange to me, and that is how you can consistently, under your vow as Grand Commander, institute a Commandery under a charter granted—as you must know—in direct violation of the laws governing the Grand Commandery, and also of the statutes of the Grand Encampment. The fact that the Grand Commandery authorized an unlawful proceeding, does not compel or require you to consummate it.

It would seem as though it would be no more than courteous, to say the least, that you stay proceedings until you can correspond with the Grand Master, and learn his views upon the question.

From the persistent manner, however, in which this matter has been pushed from the beginning, and the false representations made against Lansing Commandery and its members, leads me to believe, that the question as to the

legality of the whole proceedings, has had very little consideration on the part of the Grand Commandery.

Very respectfully and courteously yours,

L. H. BRIGGS,

Eminent Commander Lansing Commandery, No. 25.

These utterances of Eminent Sir Briggs, and the vindictive language he uses in writing of this Grand Commandery and its acts and motives, to the highest officer of the same, are worthy of only the *severest* censure, and we believe the Grand Commander would have been justified in suspending him from his official position therefor. Instead of doing so, however, the Grand Commander still endeavors to conciliate matters, and replies as follows:

GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF MICHIGAN, }
OFFICE OF GRAND COMMANDER, }
COLDWATER, MICH., June 19, 1885. }

*Sir Leland H. Briggs, Eminent Commander Lansing Commandery, No. 25, K. T.,
Lansing, Michigan:*

EMINENT SIR—Yours of the 17th received. In reply would say there is no use of our keeping up this controversy, as I am as firm in my belief of what is right, as what you are in your belief.

If the Grand Commandery was wrong in granting a charter to Charlotte, the Grand Encampment must decide that question, and not Lansing Commandery. And further, if the *seal* of Lansing Commandery conferred the right to its representatives to oppose the granting of a charter to Charlotte, it certainly conferred the right of withdrawing all complaints. (See form of proxy.) And here let me say, personally, I have no feeling towards Lansing Commandery, or any member of the same, but the kindest, but do feel that they have taken a wrong course, and one that will have a tendency to open wider the breach between them and Charlotte; and I wish to caution you, as I have the Sir Knights of Charlotte. Remember your declaration as a Knight Templar, and the breach can be healed, and that true Knightly feeling prevail, as expressed by Sir Jones in the Grand Commandery, when he "pledged the hearty support of Lansing Commandery to the Sir Knights of Charlotte."

I do hope, Eminent Sir, that better counsel will prevail, and that peace and harmony may soon be restored.

With best wishes, I remain

Very courteously yours,

R. ALLEN HALL,

Grand Commander.

On June 24, last, the Right Eminent Grand Commander, assisted by other officers and members of this Grand Commandery, went to

Charlotte and duly constituted the new Commandery, and installed its officers, as he has reported in his address.

In the meantime, Lansing Commandery had sent the following appeal to Right Eminent Sir Chas. Roome, Acting Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States:

*To the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar for the United States of America;
Sir Robert Enoch Withers, Most Eminent Grand Master:*

It is most respectfully represented to the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar for the United States of America, that Lansing Commandery, No. 25, is a regularly constituted Commandery of Knights Templar, acting under the sanction of a legal warrant from the Grand Commandery of the State of Michigan, and bearing date June 2, A. D. 1889, A. O. 751.

That our said Lansing Commandery has in all things borne true faith and allegiance to the Grand Encampment of the United States, and to the Grand Commandery of the State of Michigan, ever maintaining the constitution, laws, and edicts of the former, and standing to and abiding by the statutes, rules and regulations of the latter.

That said Lansing Commandery, No. 25, is stationed at Lansing, in the county of Ingham, and State of Michigan; and that by virtue of the constitution of your Grand Encampment its legal jurisdiction extends to a point equi-distant between other and the nearest Commanderies and itself, as follows:

Upon the north, distant twenty miles, St. Johns, No. 24.

Upon the northeast, distant thirty miles, Corunna, No. 21.

Upon the northwest, distant thirty miles, Ionia, No. 11.

Upon the east, distant thirty-five miles, Howell, No. 28.

Upon the south, distant thirty-eight miles, Jackson, No. 9.

Upon the southwest, distant forty miles, Marshall, No. 17.

That within said jurisdiction, extending, as it appears, to an average radius of seventeen miles, is situated the city of Charlotte, distant, in a direct line, about eighteen miles southwest of Lansing, containing some 3,600 inhabitants, and being the residence of ten Sir Knights, affiliated members of our Commandery.

That heretofore, namely, on the twelfth day of December, A. D. 1884, A. O. 766, a petition, dated April 3, 1884, A. O. 766, signed by our said resident members at Charlotte, and others said to be members of the Order (but no evidence of such fact accompanying the petition), and directed to our said Grand Commandery, was presented to our said Lansing Commandery, asking for the endorsement of its consent thereon, for the chartering and institution of a new Commandery at the said city of Charlotte. Said petition, after being upon the table from the date of its reception until the thirteenth day of February following, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767, was, at a regular conclave of our said Commandery, on the latter date held, taken up for final action, and by a vote of twenty-five to eight denied—the latter number

including the votes of at least six members, signers of the petition for the new Commandery.

It is further respectfully represented, that no further action was ever had by our said Lansing Commandery, with reference to the establishment of a new Commandery at Charlotte, subsequent to that last herein recited. But that on the twelfth day of May, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767, that being the day of the meeting of the twenty-ninth annual conclave of our said Grand Commandery of Michigan, a new petition for the establishment of a Commandery at the said city of Charlotte (the names of the said signers thereof being to our Lansing Commandery unknown), and purporting to have the recommendation of Jackson Commandery, No. 9, and of Battle Creek Commandery, No. 33, was presented to the committee on charters and dispensations previously appointed by the Grand Commander as one of the standing committees for such twenty-ninth annual conclave of the said Grand Commandery, such petition not having been first presented to the Grand Commandery for its acceptance and proper reference, as is usual in such proceedings. That such petition, notwithstanding the manifest irregularity of its execution and presentation, was favorably reported by the said committee on charters and dispensations, and the issue of the charter for the new Commandery at Charlotte recommended, if, in the judgment of the said Grand Commandery, the consent of our said Lansing Commandery had been duly and legally given for such action.

Whereupon our said Grand Commandery proceeded to pass upon the report of the said committee on charters and dispensations, and did then and there (it being the thirteenth day of May, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767, and the second day of its said twenty-ninth annual conclave, at the city of Detroit, in the State of Michigan) did grant and authorize the issue of a charter for the institution of a new Commandery at Charlotte to the signers of the petition thereof, notwithstanding the earnest and repeated protest of the representatives of our said Lansing Commandery there present at the conclave of the said Grand Commandery; and in total and utter disregard of the provisions of clause three, section thirty-seven, of the constitution of the Grand Encampment of the United States, and of section four, of article three, of the statutes of the Grand Commandery of the State of Michigan, and in wanton violation of the rights and jurisdiction of our Lansing Commandery, as guaranteed to it by the constitution and statutes last herein mentioned.

Wherefore, our said Lansing Commandery, No. 25, feeling aggrieved and humiliated by the action of our said Grand Commandery in the premises, as herein stated, at a meeting held at its asylum on the nineteenth of May, instant, every member thereof having first been duly cited to be present, and the object of the conclave made known in such citation, the undersigned were duly appointed a committee to prepare and present to the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar for the United States of America, an appeal in behalf of our said Lansing Commandery, No. 25, from the action of our said Grand Commandery in the granting of the charter for a new Commandery at Charlotte, as hereinbefore recited.

Therefore, be it known to the said Grand Encampment of Knights Templar for the United States of America, that, for and in behalf of our said Lansing Commandery, No. 25, *we have appealed*, and by these presents do *most solemnly appeal* from the action of our said Grand Commandery in issuing a charter for the establishment of a new Commandery within our jurisdiction without our consent; and that no hurt may come to our said Commandery from such illegal action, until such time as this, our appeal, can be heard and decided, we invoke the interference of the supreme authority of the Most Eminent Grand Master, in such manner as in his discretion, the constitution and statutes of the Order authorize, and the exigency of the case seems to demand; at the same time giving him to be informed and to understand that our said Lansing Commandery, No. 25, will appear, by its proper representative, at the next triennial conclave of our said Grand Encampment, to be held in the city of St. Louis, in the State of Missouri, on the third Tuesday of September, A. D. 1886, A. O. 768, and make the grounds of this appeal good.

Witness our hands at the city of Lansing, in the State of Michigan, this twenty-second day of May, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Signed:

WYLLYS C. RANSOM,
GEORGE A. HASTY,
MYMER B. CARPENTER,

Committee on behalf of Lansing Commandery, No. 25, K. T. of the State of Mich.

Accompanying this appeal, was sent the following from Eminent Sir Briggs:

*To the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar for the United States of America;
Sir Enoch Withers, Most Eminent Grand Master:*

I hereby certify that at a special conclave of Lansing Commandery, held at its asylum in the city of Lansing, on the nineteenth of May, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767, after special citation to each and every member thereof, to be present, for the purpose of considering the matter of appeal to the Grand Encampment of the United States from the recent action of the Grand Commandery of the State of Michigan in chartering a new Commandery at the city of Charlotte, said city being situated within the territorial jurisdiction of our said Lansing Commandery, and the said charter having been issued without the consent of our said Lansing Commandery, the Sir Knights whose names are appended to the foregoing appeal were duly appointed, charged with the duty of preparing such appeal in our behalf, and presenting the same, through the proper official channels, to the Grand Encampment of the United States for its action thereon, at the twenty-third triennial conclave of that body.

Given under my hand and the seal of our said Commandery, at Lansing, this twenty-second day of May, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Signed:

LELAND H. BRIGGS,

Eminent Commander.

{
SEAL.
}

Attest:

WILLIAM ENNIS, *Recorder.*

*E

On the 10th of July, R. E. Grand Commander Hall received the following communication from R. E. Sir Charles Roome, Acting Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States:

GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA. OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER,
No. 4, IRVING PLACE, NEW YORK, July 7, 1885.

R. E. R. A. Hall, Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Michigan:

R. E. SIR AND FRATER—Herewith I send you my opinion, so far as it seems to be called for, in the matter of the appeal taken by Lansing Commandery, No. 25, from the action of the Grand Commandery of Michigan.

Without repeating the reasons which have led me to the conclusions therein expressed, I most earnestly call your attention to my suggestions as to the course which I deem it advisable and judicious for you to take. Not only may Lansing Commandery be injured by the present state of affairs, but also the newly Knighted companions in Charlotte Commandery may be declared irregular, and any Commandery in this country knowing the circumstances of the case, might properly refuse to hold Knightly intercourse with them.

In view of this state of facts, and because the temporary suspension of the new Commandery can cause far less injury to themselves and others than its continued existence is likely to effect, I most emphatically urge upon you to arrest any further action on the part of Charlotte Commandery, until the Grand Encampment can render its decision.

I also enclose a copy of my opinion for Lansing Commandery, which you will please forward to its Eminent Commander.

Courteously yours,

CHARLES ROOME,

Deputy Grand Master, Acting Grand Master, United States of America.

Accompanying this letter was the *opinion* referred to, and which was as follows:

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE UNITED STATES.
NEW YORK, July 7, 1885.

LANSING COMMANDERY, NO. 25,

versus

THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MICHIGAN.

The facts in the present case are very similar to those in the appeal of Muncie Commandery, No. 18, from the action of the Grand Commandery of Indiana, and the same reasons which guided me in that case will govern my decision in the present appeal. The facts, briefly stated, are as follows:

On December 12, 1884, certain Knights Templar residing at Charlotte, Michigan, and within the territorial jurisdiction of Lansing Commandery, No. 25, presented to Lansing Commandery a petition requesting the said Commandery to give its consent to the chartering and institution of a new Commandery at Charlotte, which consent was, on February 13, 1885, at a regular conclave, and by a vote of twenty-five to eight, refused.

On May 12, 1885, at the twenty-ninth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Michigan, a new petition, not bearing the consent of Lansing Commandery, but purporting to have that of Jackson Commandery, (situated at a greater distance from Charlotte than Lansing Commandery,) and also that of Battle Creek Commandery, (whose location is not shown by the papers in the case, but which, I should judge, was farther removed from Charlotte than Lansing Commandery,) was presented to the committee on charters and dispensations. The committee reported in favor of granting the charter, provided the Grand Commandery found that the consent of Lansing Commandery had been duly obtained.

The Grand Commandery, then, contrary to the protest of the representatives of Lansing Commandery there present, and as it is alleged contrary to the constitution and statutes of the Grand Encampment of the United States, and of the statutes of the Grand Commandery of Michigan, granted authority to issue a charter for a new Commandery, to be located at Charlotte.

It further appears, in addition to the facts hereinabove stated, that in April, 1888, at a meeting of Lansing Commandery, consent had been given to the formation of the new Commandery, but that on reconsideration at a subsequent more largely attended conclave, this action was reversed and permission refused. That subsequently, on these facts, the Grand Commandery at its session in 1888, refused to grant the charter prayed for, and that a similar refusal was given at the annual conclave in 1884, but that as above stated the Grand Commandery in 1885, reversed its former decision and granted the charter, contrary to the protest of Lansing Commandery.

As I have decided in the case of Muncie Commandery, above referred to, the appeal here taken, so far as it involves the construction of the constitution, code of statutes, or edicts, or statutes of the Grand Encampment, is proper and regular, and will, I doubt not, receive the full and careful consideration of the Grand Encampment. (See section nine, article one, appeal, code of statutes of the Grand Encampment.) The statutes of the Grand Commandery of Michigan cannot be considered, however, inasmuch as each Grand Commandery is the final judge of the effect and meaning of its own laws, when legislating upon subjects within the scope of their jurisdiction.

In reference to the main question, as to whether the charter has been properly granted or not, I will again decide that I have no power in the prem-

isess, and that the Grand Encampment alone can determine the construction to be placed on its own laws.

If I considered the question to be, as to whether I should permit a clear infraction of the constitution and statutes of the Grand Encampment or not, or if I believed there was the slightest attempt to belittle the dignity and overthrow the power of that body, I should not for a moment hesitate to take such steps as I might believe to be proper. The present case, however, involves the question as to the correct interpretation of the supreme law, and in such a matter I do not consider that I am empowered to act as a court of appeal from a Grand Commandery, or to set aside its determination.

My duty is to see that the law, as clearly laid down, is carried into effect; to execute the law and not to make or determine it. When the Grand Encampment has decided, it is then, and only then, the duty of the Grand Master to carry its decisions into effect.

In reference to the question of supersedeas, I am clearly of the opinion that section two, article one, appeal, code of statutes of the Grand Encampment, has the effect of causing the matter appealed from to remain in *status quo* until the appeal can be decided, and I do not see that any direction on my part could possibly add to the effect of the statute referred to. As I doubt the power of the Grand Master to interfere between a Grand Commandery and its subordinates, as I know of no case in which this has been done, and as the proper construction of this and analogous statutes will also be involved in this appeal, I am still more inclined to allow the matter to await the conclave of the Grand Encampment at Saint Louis.

I most earnestly urge the Grand Commander of Michigan, however, to refrain from any further steps in this matter, and in case the new Commandery has already been chartered, to arrest the charter until the Grand Encampment can determine this appeal. My reason for this request is, firstly, because the continued existence of the new Commandery may prove irreparably injurious to Lansing Commandery, and, secondly, because if the charter shall be decided to have been illegally granted, all the work done by the newly chartered body will necessarily be held to be irregular, and the status as Knight Templars of any companions on whom they have in the meantime conferred the Orders, will, to say the least, call for some further action to make them members of the Order in good standing.

CHARLES ROOME,

Deputy Grand Master, and Acting Grand Master of Knights Templar, United States of America

You will observe, Sir Knights, that, in the appeal of Lansing Commandery, the committee who prepared it mention the fact the Charlotte Sir Knights made a request for the recommendation in December, 1884, and which was refused on February 18, 1885, as we have previously

shown. They also say "that no further action was ever had by our said Lansing Commandery with reference to the establishment of a new Commandery at Charlotte *subsequent* to that." But in no place in the appeal do they, either directly or indirectly, mention the fact, or allude to it in any manner, that said Lansing Commandery *had* given such recommendation *previous* to that date. On this point there is only the most absolute silence, and from the reading of the appeal, with no other knowledge of the facts, no person *could* have an idea that any recommendation had *ever* been given. They go on to say: "We appeal from the action of our Grand Commandery in issuing a charter for the establishing of a new Commandery within our jurisdiction, *without our consent*," etc.

Now note carefully what Acting Grand Master Charles Roome says upon this point:

"It further appears, in addition to the facts hereinabove stated, that in April, 1883, at a meeting of Lansing Commandery, consent *had been given* to the formation of the new Commandery; but that on reconsideration, at a subsequent more largely attended conclave, this action was reversed, and permission refused."

Doubtless you are all asking yourselves this question, from what source did the Acting Grand Master receive this *additional information*? The appeal, you will observe, says *nothing at all* about any recommendation having been voted in April, 1883, nor at any other time. On the contrary, the carefully worded phraseology of the appeal is evidently intended to convey the impression that no such consent had *ever* been voted by Lansing Commandery, and yet the Acting Grand Master calls attention to such recommendation and states that it was "afterwards reversed," etc.

Does this show that this part of the matter mentioned in Right Eminent Sir Roome's decision (or *opinion*, as he terms it) was based upon the *appeal*, or upon a subsequent personal interview with a Lansing Sir Knight, who visited him for the purpose of influencing him in this matter? If such visit *was* made, or, indeed, this information conveyed in *any* manner *outside* or separate from the appeal, as is only too evident *was* done, should not the *other side* have been allowed a hearing before any decision *could* have been arrived at intelligently? The committee condemn, in unequivocal terms, the actions of the Sir Knights of Lansing Commandery in making this appeal, in which, while they have stated a part of the facts, have studiously concealed those facts which had the most direct and important bearing upon the case, and thus presented, as the basis of their appeal, merely a garbled statement of a *part* of the facts, and afterwards reinforced that statemen

by a personal interview or private correspondence, which had no right to be recognized by any officer claiming to act upon such a matter.

Again, the Acting Grand Master refers to his decision in a case which he calls very similar to this one, in relation to Muncie Commandery, No. 18, Indiana. An investigation of this Muncie case fails to develop any parallel between the two. In that one, certain Sir Knights residing in Anderson, Indiana, within the jurisdiction of Muncie Commandery, asked that Commandery for a recommendation for a new one at Anderson; and this request was refused, *never granted*. (In our case it *was* granted.) They then ask the Grand Commander for a dispensation, and he grants it, and the new Commandery commences work under that dispensation. At the next conclave of the Grand Commandery of Indiana, application was made for a charter for this new Commandery, and it was granted, notwithstanding the protest of Muncie Commandery; the Grand Commandery of Indiana taking the ground that *in all such matters* the authority of the Grand Commandery was *supreme* in its own jurisdiction; that it possessed the undeniable right to control, *absolutely*, the establishment of new Commanderies in its own jurisdiction.

Thus you see the two cases are quite *dis*-similar. Muncie Commandery *never had* recommended the petitioners; Lansing *had*.

Right Eminent Commander Hall replied to these communications as follows:

GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF MICHIGAN, }
OFFICE OF GRAND COMMANDER, }
COLDWATER, MICH., July 13, 1885. }

R. E. Charles Roome, R. E. D. G. M., and Acting M. E. Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, K. T. of the U. S.

RIGHT EMINENT SIR—Your decision, "Lansing Commandery, No. 25, versus The Grand Commandery Michigan," received.

I do not think, R. E. Sir, you had a full report of this case, and would respectfully refer you to page 38, proceedings of Grand Commandery of Michigan, 1885, where you will see in the report of the committee on charters and dispensations, that the Sir Knights of Charlotte were recommended to the Grand Commandery of Michigan for a charter in 1883, which recommend has never been reconsidered or rescinded by said Lansing Commandery, and was so stated to the committee on charters and dispensations by the representatives of Lansing Commandery.

You will also see on pages thirty-eight, thirty-nine and forty, that the report was acted on in two sections, viz: 1. "That it is the sense of this grand body that the recommendation by said Lansing Commandery, No. 25, heretofore given, as shown by the records of this Grand Commandery, still remains in full

force and effect." The vote being taken on this clause, out of the whole number present, not more than ten voted in the negative. And the vote on the second clause, viz: "To grant the prayers of the petitioners, and issue a charter to Charlotte," not more than four or five voted in the negative.

You will also see on page 40, that Sir Nelson B. Jones, proxy for Eminent Commander of Lansing Commandery, No. 25, gave *notice of appeal* from the action of the Grand Commandery. Also on page 46 you will see that Sir Nelson B. Jones "asked permission to address the Grand Commandery on a question of privilege," and did then "withdraw the notice of appeal" to the Grand Encampment.

This action I considered an end to objections, as I consider this notice of appeal *virtually* an appeal, and his withdrawal *virtually* an abandonment, and article six, section one, code of statutes of the Grand Encampment, reads: "An appeal taken and abandoned leaves the judgment in full force." I so ruled May 16th, when Eminent Sir Briggs, Eminent Commander of Lansing Commandery, No. 25, notified me that he intended to call a meeting of Lansing Commandery, May 19, to take action on an appeal to the Grand Encampment.

Should you desire, I will send you copies of all the correspondence of Lansing Commandery, and my replies, which will show you plainly the *spirit* manifested by Lansing Commandery in this matter. To say the least it is anything but courteous and Knightly, and I will here say, as near as I can find out, this feeling was worked up, *and is still kept alive*, by not more than *thirteen or fourteen* out of a total membership of one hundred and six of Lansing Commandery.

Most Eminent Sir, the Grand Commandery of Michigan has always borne true allegiance to the Grand Encampment, and is composed of as true and loyal Sir Knights as are to be found in any jurisdiction, and would not knowingly or wilfully commit such a flagrant violation of the laws of the Grand Encampment, as alleged in the appeal of Lansing Commandery. In view of all the facts of the case, and with all due respect, M. E. Sir, to your position, I take the liberty of holding your decision until you can have a full and impartial statement of the whole truth in the matter, as I believe after a full knowledge of the case you cannot do otherwise than agree with me that Lansing Commandery was out of order in this matter. And I believe a great injustice would be done the Grand Commandery of Michigan, and especially Charlotte Commandery, No. 37, should you order this charter arrested.

They have already conferred the Order of Red Cross upon a number of companions, and I would most respectfully request you to withdraw your decision, and let the Grand Encampment decide the case.

With best wishes, I remain

Very courteously yours,

R. ALLEN HALL.

Grand Commander.

A few days later, R. E. Sir Hall received this letter from R. E. Sir Roome:

GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE U. S. OF A.
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, NO. 4, IRVING PLACE,
NEW YORK CITY, July 24, 1885.

Right Eminent Sir R. Allen Hall, Grand Commander Knights Templar of Michigan:

RIGHT EMINENT SIR AND DEAR FRATER—I am in receipt of your esteemed communication of the 18th inst.

Upon careful reflection, I see no good reason to change the opinion I have already expressed. You misunderstood me if you supposed I would order the charter of Charlotte Commandery to be arrested.

So far as I am concerned, the matter must rest with the Grand Encampment.

With sincere respect and regard, I am, dear sir,

(Courteously yours,

CHARLES ROOME,
Deputy Grand Master.

Right Eminent Sir Hall, acting from his own firm convictions and in accordance with the counsel of other officers of this Grand Commandery, wisely decided to take no action in the way of suspending or arresting the charter of Charlotte Commandery, and that Commandery has been working uninterruptedly to this day, with such signal success that your committee cannot refrain from giving you the following items concerning it: It was constituted June 24, 1885, (less than eleven months ago) with thirty two charter members. It has knighted since that time forty-one; received by affiliation, three; making a total membership of seventy-seven; has one Red Cross Knight, and three Companions elected to receive the Orders. Surely, Sir Knights of this Grand Commandery, you have no reason to be ashamed of your action of one year ago, in giving life to such a vigorous and healthy Commandery as Charlotte, No. 37.

Thus we have given a full and complete (and you probable think a very long and tedious) history of this case, and brought the matter down to where it stands at the present time. In summing up this matter, your committee are of the opinion that Lansing Commandery forfeited all legal right to an appeal when the representatives of that Commandery so plainly withdrew all notice of appeal and pledged the support and good-will of Lansing Commandery to the new one at Charlotte; and we cannot condemn in too strong terms the action of the Eminent Commander and a part of the Sir Knights of Lansing Commandery in thus endeavoring to stir up additional strife, when all diffi-

culties had been so harmoniously settled, as was the case with this matter when Sir Jones extended a knightly hand of fellowship to the Charlotte Knights one year ago. But, while we believe that no *legal* right to appeal existed under the circumstances, and for the reasons given, yet the fact that such appeal *has been made*, leaves this Grand Commandery no alternative but to answer that appeal and defend its actions at the coming conclave of the Grand Encampment of the United States, at St. Louis, in September next, and to make suitable preparation therefor, provided Lansing Commandery shall continue to press their appeal.

Your committee believes that this Grand Commandery would be derelict to duty, and would become what Eminent Sir Briggs and his allies are trying to make it, an object of contempt and derision, if it should fail at this time to stand squarely upon its own record, and to express, in language too plain to be misunderstood, its determination to stand by its work of one year ago, believing that work to have been not only *just* and *right*, but *perfectly legal* and *in no particular* in conflict with the laws and edicts of the Grand Encampment of the United States, or the statutes and regulations of this Grand Commandery. The Grand Commandery of Michigan cannot afford to take any steps backward, and should have the courage to meet the issue which has been raised without flinching, and assert its true dignity upon this occasion.

Your committee would, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That this Grand Commandery affirms the validity and legality of its action, at its last annual conclave, in granting a charter to Charlotte Commandery, upon the recommendation voted by Lansing Commandery, No. 25, in 1883, and still in the archives of this Grand Commandery, and we heartily indorse the action of the Right Eminent Grand Commander, in carrying out the instructions of this Grand Body and constituting said Charlotte Commandery, in accordance with the action of this Grand Commandery in authorizing the same, and, also, in declining to arrest the charter of said Commandery, as desired by its opponents.

Resolved, That we condemn, in strongest terms, the action of Eminent Sir Leland H. Briggs in endeavoring to stir up strife within this grand jurisdiction; and we hold Eminent Sir Briggs guilty of insulting both the Right Eminent Grand Commander and this Grand Commandery, by the inexcusable language used in his letters to the Grand Commander.

Resolved, That we deny the legal right of an appeal by Lansing Commandery, after its representatives had withdrawn all previous

notice of such appeal, but the fact that such appeal *has been made*, and that it *must* be met by this Grand Commandery, forces us to make suitable preparations to answer the same, and defend the ground taken by this Grand Commandery, and we request the Right Eminent Grand Commander to appoint a committee to collate and prepare a statement of all the facts in the case, and to represent this grand body in this matter, at the coming conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, at St. Louis, in September next, to the end that truth and right may prevail, and the honor and dignity of this Grand Commandery may be maintained.

Courteously submitted,

JEFFERSON S. CONOVER,

GEO. W. YOUNG,

HENRY L. ANTHONY,

Committee.

UNIFORM.

At the request of the chairman of the special committee on uniform, the committee was granted further time (until next conclave) to report on the subject.

JURISPRUDENCE.

The standing committee on jurisprudence, to whom was referred that part of the R. E. Grand Commander's address referring to changes of constitution asked by the states of Iowa, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and other grand jurisdictions, of the Grand Encampment of the United States, submitted the following report, which, on motion, was accepted and adopted:

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery, K. T. of Michigan :

Your committee on jurisprudence, to whom was referred that portion of the R. E. Grand Commander's address relating to the Grand Encampment, respectfully report, that they have examined the several propositions received by the Grand Commander, and submitted to your committee, and respectfully report and recommend, that the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Michigan adopt the following propositions received:

1. *Resolved*, That the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States abandon the system of centralized and exclusive power which it now maintains
2. *Resolved*, That its laws be revised and so simplified as to include general principles only, leaving to Grand Commanderies the power, which of right belongs to them, to legislate upon all matters of detail.
3. *Resolved*, That sovereign power be recognized as vested in Grand Commanderies, and such general powers only in the Grand Encampment as may be expressly delegated to it.
4. *Resolved*, That under the general legislation of the Grand Encampment, jurisdiction be vested in Grand Commanderies over the subjects of uniform, ritual and membership.
5. *Resolved*, That in order that the Grand Encampment may in peace and quietness provide the legislation necessary to carry out the foregoing changes, it is in duty bound to positively prohibit all parades and entertainments at the time and place when and where its conclaves shall be held.
6. *Resolved*, That the representatives of this Grand Commandery, at the coming Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment, be instructed to present and press the action contemplated in the foregoing resolutions.
7. *Resolved*, That this report be printed without delay, and a copy thereof sent to the Grand Commanderies of Pennsylvania, Iowa, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and others.

Courteously submitted,

GARRA B. NOBLE, P. G. C.

HOLLIS F. KNAPP, P. G. C.

GEORGE W. CHANDLER, P. G. C.

Committee.

RETURNS OF SUBORDINATES.

The standing committee on returns of subordinates, submitted the following report, which, on motion, was accepted and adopted:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery, K. T., of Michigan:

Your committee on the returns of subordinate Commanderies beg leave to report that they have had the same under consideration, and report as follows:

Detroit.....	No. 1.....	Correct.
Pontiac.....	No. 2.....	"
Eureka.....	No. 3.....	"
Adrian.....	No. 4.....	"
De Molai.....	No. 5.....	"
Romeo.....	No. 6.....	"
Port Huron.....	No. 7.....	"
Peninsular.....	No. 8.....	"
Jackson.....	No. 9.....	"
Jacobs.....	No. 10.....	"
Ionia.....	No. 11.....	"
Niles.....	No. 12.....	"
Ann Arbor.....	No. 13.....	"
Fenton.....	No. 14.....	"
Genesee.....	No. 15.....	"
St. Bernard	No. 16.....	Overpaid 75 cents.
Marshall.....	No. 17.....	Correct.
Columbia.....	No. 18.....	"
Monroe.....	No. 19.....	"
Corunna.....	No. 21.....	"
Muskegon.....	No. 22.....	"
Pilgrim.....	No. 23.....	"
St. Johns.....	No. 24.....	"
Lansing.....	No. 25.....	"
Bay City.....	No. 26.....	"
Lexington.....	No. 27.....	"
Howell.....	No. 28.....	"
Three Rivers...	No. 29	Overpaid \$3.00.
Lake Superior..	No. 30	Correct.
Apollo.....	No. 31.....	"
Manistee.....	No. 32.....	"
Battle Creek...	No. 33.....	"
Alpena.....	No. 34.....	"
Menominee.....	No. 35.....	"
Ivanhoe.....	No. 36.....	"
Charlotte	No. 37.....	"

And would recommend that an order be drawn in favor of St. Bernard Commandery, No. 16, and Three Rivers, No. 29, for the amount overpaid.

CALVIN W. NOTTINGHAM,
BENJ. T. DAVIS,
CHAS. W. BACKUS,

Committee.

APPEALS.

Sir Norris J. Frink, chairman of the standing committee on appeals, submitted the following report, which, on motion, was accepted and adopted:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery, K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee on appeals most respectfully report that no business has been presented to this committee for consideration.

Courteously submitted,

NORRIS J. FRINK,
WILLIAM J. GILBERT,
SHUBAL D. RUNNELS,
Committee.

RESOLUTIONS.

Sir Luman R. Atwater, P. G. C., submitted the following resolutions, which were voted upon separately, and adopted:

Resolved, That the sum of \$300 be paid the Grand Recorder for services, office rent and clerk hire the past year.

Resolved, That the sum of \$15.00 be paid the Grand Sentinel for services rendered at the present conclave.

Resolved, That the sum of \$63.94 be allowed the R. E. Grand Commander, to compensate him for actual expenses incurred during the year.

Resolved, That the Grand Recorder be instructed to have the usual number of proceedings of this conclave printed and distributed.

Resolved, That the Grand Recorder be authorized to draw an order on the Grand Treasurer for the payment of the foregoing amounts.

FINANCE.

The standing committee on finance submitted the following report, which was accepted and adopted:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery, K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee on finance beg leave to report that they have carefully examined the accounts of your financial agents, and find that

your Eminent Grand Recorder has received during the year, as follows:

Fees for Charlotte Commandery, No. 37.....	\$ 100 00
Fees for Montrose Commandery, No. 38.....	100 00
Dues from subordinate Commanderies.....	3 105 50
Total.....	\$3,805 50

For all of which he holds the receipt of your Eminent Grand Treasurer.

At last report your E. G. Treasurer had on hand.....	\$3,848 63
Received from your E. G. Recorder during the year.....	3,805 50

Total	\$7,154 13
--------------------	-------------------

His disbursements have been:

Pay Roll of Grand Officers.....	\$ 404 20
Pay Roll of other members of the Grand Commandery.....	656 60
Paid warrants drawn by your E. G. Recorder.....	1,914 19
Paid Exchange.....	25
Balance on hand.....	4,178 89
	\$7,154 13

Courteously submitted,

ED. D. BENEDICT,

ALBERT STILES,

WALTER G. SEELEY,

Committee.

NEXT PLACE OF MEETING.

Sir Henry F. Hastings moved that a committee of three be appointed by the R. E. Grand Commander to report upon the next place of meeting for the Grand Commandery. Carried. And the R. E. Grand Commander appointed as such committee:

Sir Henry F. Hastings, E. C.
 Sir Charles R. Hutchinson.
 Sir Henry S. Church.

RESOLUTION.

On motion of Sir and Rev. Francis A. Blades, the Grand Treasurer was instructed to pay to Sir Geo. E. Pantlind, P. E. C., chairman of the committee on ritual, the same per diem and mileage allowed other members of the Grand Commandery.

RESOLUTION.

The following resolution, offered by Sir Charles P. Bigelow, was unanimously adopted.

Resolved. The thanks of this Grand Commandery are due and are hereby tendered to Detroit Commandery, No. 1, K. T. for the use of their asylum for holding the present conclave of this Grand Body.

RESOLUTION.

The following resolution, offered by Sir Jefferson S. Conover, was accepted and adopted:

Resolved, That Eminent Sir Blades be appointed chairman of a committee, with authority to name his assistants, to complete and have printed 4,000 copies of the new Ascension Ritual, and that the Eminent Grand Recorder draw his warrant for the same, and that the subordinate Commanderies forward the amounts for the several Commanderies to the Grand Recorder.

Sir and Rev. Blades then named as his associates on said committee: Sir Knight Walter G. Seeley, E. C., and Sir Knight James Findlater, P. E. C.

NEXT PLACE OF MEETING.

Sir Henry F. Hastings, chairman of the special committee on next place of meeting, submitted the following report, which was accepted and adopted:

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee, to whom was referred the place of meeting of the Grand Commandery in 1887, beg leave to report that but two invitations were received for a place to hold the meeting, one from Detroit, No. 1, and one from De Molai, No. 5, of Grand Rapids. Detroit, No. 1, promised the usual hospitality; while De Molai, No. 5, of Grand Rapids, represented that they would at that time have a new and elegant hall, and would like this Grand Commandery to personally inspect the same, and for that reason were particularly anxious that the Grand Commandery should be held there in 1887. They promised their best endeavors to make the meeting a most happy one; at the same time they claim that in the matter of mileage it would be a

saving to this Grand Commandery. Your committee, have given the matter full consideration, and would recommend that the next meeting be held at Grand Rapids.

All of which is courteously submitted.

HENRY F. HASTINGS,
CHAS. R. HUTCHINSON,
HENRY S. CHURCH,
Committee.

RESOLUTION.

Sir Jefferson S. Conover, E. C. submitted the following resolution, which was accepted and adopted:

Resolved, That the Grand Organist, Sir Henry B. Roney, be paid the same mileage and per diem for attendance at this conclave of the Grand Commandery, that is paid to officers and representatives.

RESOLUTION.

Sir John W. Finch, E. C., submitted the following resolution, which was accepted and adopted:

Resolved, That the Grand Treasurer pay to Sir L. C. Starkey, P. D. G. C., the same per diem and mileage as paid to officers and representatives during the present conclave.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

On motion, it was *Resolved*, That the Grand Commandery now proceed to the election of officers for the ensuing year.

The R. E. Grand Commander announced the appointment of the following Sir Knights as Tellers:

Sir Luman R. Atwater, P. G. C.

Sir John R. Miner.

Albert Myers, P. E. C.

Who proceeded with the work, and after a careful count of the ballots, announced the following Sir Knights as having received the highest number of votes for the several offices designated, and they were, by the R. E. Grand Commander, declared elected, as follows:

Sir William S. Lawrence, Kalamazoo, R. E. Grand Commander.
Sir Thomas H. Williams, Jackson, V. E. Dep. Grand Commander.
Sir Charles P. Bigelow, Big Rapids, Gd. Generalissimo.
Sir Edward W. Kelly, Jonesville, Gd. Captain General.
Sir and Rev. Francis A. Blades, Detroit. Gd. Prelate.
Sir John A. Gerow, Marshall, E. Gd. Senior Warden.
Sir William G. Doty, Ann Arbor, E. Gd. Junior Warden.
Sir H. Shaw Noble, Monroe, Grand Treasurer.
Sir Wm. P. Innes, P. G. C., Grand Rapids, E. Grand Recorder.
Sir Edward C. Smith, Pontiac, E. Gd. Standard Bearer.
Sir Jefferson S. Conover, Coldwater, E. Gd. Sword Bearer.
Sir Henry L. Anthony, Sturgis, E. Gd. Warden.
Sir Alexander McGregor, Detroit, E. Gd. Sentinel.

GRAND ORGANIST.

The R. E. Grand Commander elect, announced the appointment of Sir Henry B. Roney as Grand Organist of the Grand Commandery.

RESOLUTIONS.

Sir Joseph E. Sawyer offered the following resolutions, which were accepted and adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Grand Commandery are due, and the same are hereby tendered to Sir Eugene Robinson, Past Grand Captain General, for the able and courteous manner in which he has discharged the duties of his office.

Resolved, That the Grand Recorder be instructed to procure and present to Sir Robinson, on behalf of the Grand Commandery, a suitable jewel, as a testimonial of the high appreciation entertained for him by the officers and members.

RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions, offered by Sir John H. Armstrong, were adopted:

Resolved, That at the next conclave each officer and representative will be required to appear in full Templar uniform, and unless so uniformed, no officer or member will be entitled to a seat therein.

Resolved, That the Grand Recorder be instructed to promulgate this order to the several subordinate Commanderies, Grand and Past Grand officers, and members of the Grand Commandery.

*F

RESOLUTION.

P. G. C. George W. Chandler offered the following resolution, which was accepted and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Grand Recorder be instructed to procure and present to Sir R. Allen Hall, an appropriate Past Grand Commander's jewel, as a mark of the kindly feeling entertained for that officer by the members of the Grand Commandery, and as a token of their appreciation of his services during the past year.

TEMPLAR DEAD.

Sir and Rev. Francis A. Blades, chairman of the standing committee on Templar dead, submitted the following report, which was accepted and adopted:

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee, to whom was referred so much of the Right Eminent Grand Commander's address as refers to the "Templar dead" in our jurisdiction, beg leave to submit the following as their report:

Ordinarily, when listening to the address of the Right Eminent Grand Commander, and he pronounces the words, our "Templar dead," with bated breath we listen for the familiar name, or names, of loved fratres, who, having finished their work on the earthly Temple, have been called to their reward.

For the first time in many years, we heard from the Right Eminent Grand Commander that the busy angel of death had passed us by, and that no loved one was absent from our gathering by the hand of death.

When we remember the number of Sir Knights among us who have been bearing burdens and fighting the good fight for the right, until their heads are gray, and their manly forms bent under the burdens and cares of life, we can but express our surprise as well as gratitude to the Giver of all good that they have all been spared through the year.

It cannot often or long be so with us. There be many among us we must soon miss from our annual gathering.

The reprieve of this year from contributing of our number to the roll-call of death, should awaken in each heart gratitude for all the past,

and firm resolve that all that is left of life shall be so improved that when death does challenge he shall not find us off our guard.

FRANCIS A. BLADES,

LUMAN R. ATWATER,

SAMUEL C. RANDALL,

Committee.

RESOLUTION.

The following preamble and resolution, offered by Sir John W. Finch, E. C., was adopted:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery, K. T. of Michigan:

WHEREAS, Montrose Commandery, No. 38, to whom a charter has been granted at this session, has paid to this Grand Commandery thirty-four dollars for seventeen candidates Knighted; therefore

Resolved, That the delegate of that Commandery be paid the usual mileage and per diem.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

The R. E. Grand Commander, Sir R. Allen Hall, assisted by the Grand Marshal, proceeded to install the officers elect, who, after taking the vow of office, repaired to their several stations, and assumed their respective duties.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

The R. E. Grand Commander announced the following Sir Knights members of the special committee, provided for under the report made and submitted relative to the appeal of Lansing Commandery, No. 25, to the Grand Encampment of the United States, to be held in St. Louis, September 21, 1886,

Sir OLIVER L. SPAULDING, P. G. C.

Sir JOHN W. MCGRATH.

Sir JEFFERSON S. CONOVER.

CLOSING.

The acting E. G. Recorder announced that there was no further business before the Grand Commandery, whereupon the Grand Commander, William S. Lawrence, proceeded to close the Grand Commandery in *Ample Form*, divine benediction being invoked by the Sir Knights, who were led in solemn devotion by the Grand Prelate.

WM. S. LAWRENCE,
R. E. Grand Commander.

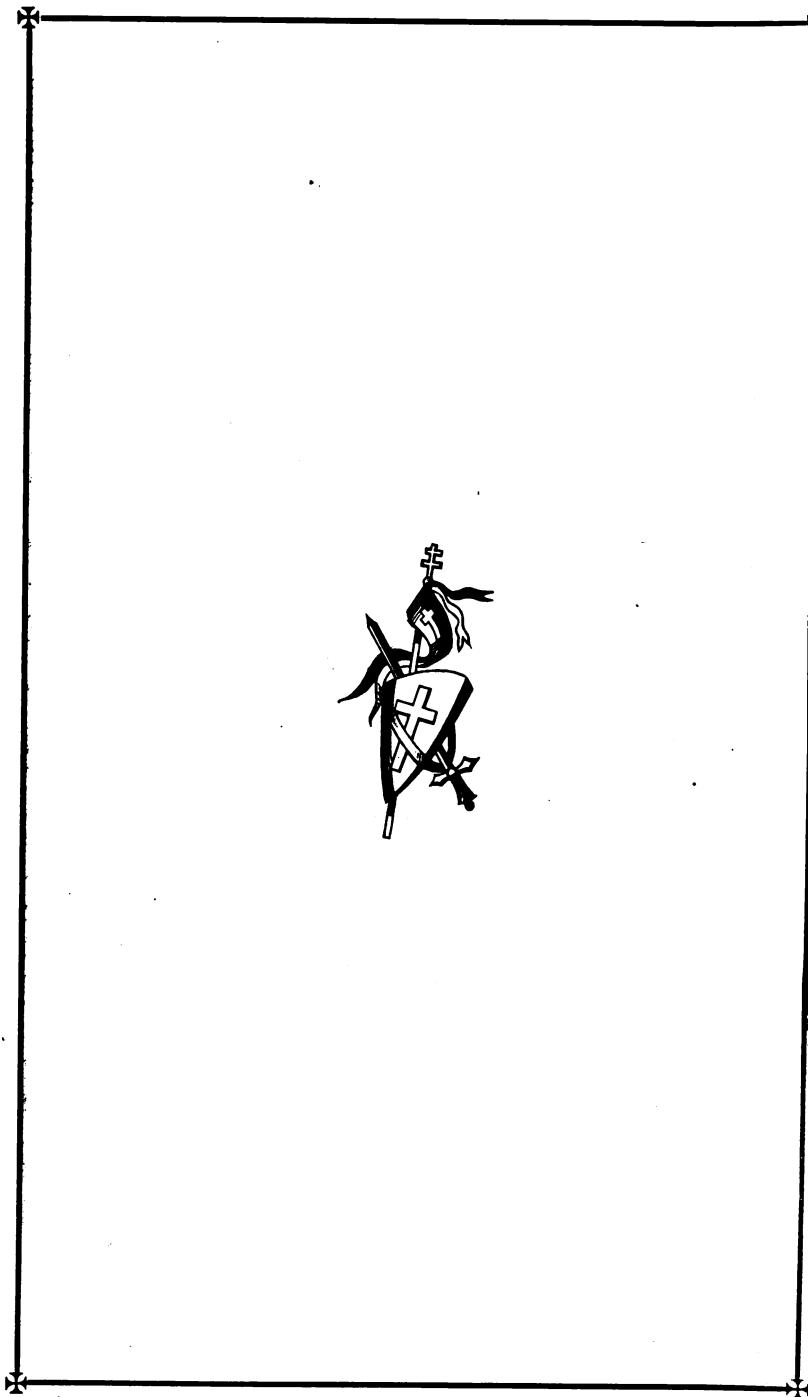
ATTEST:

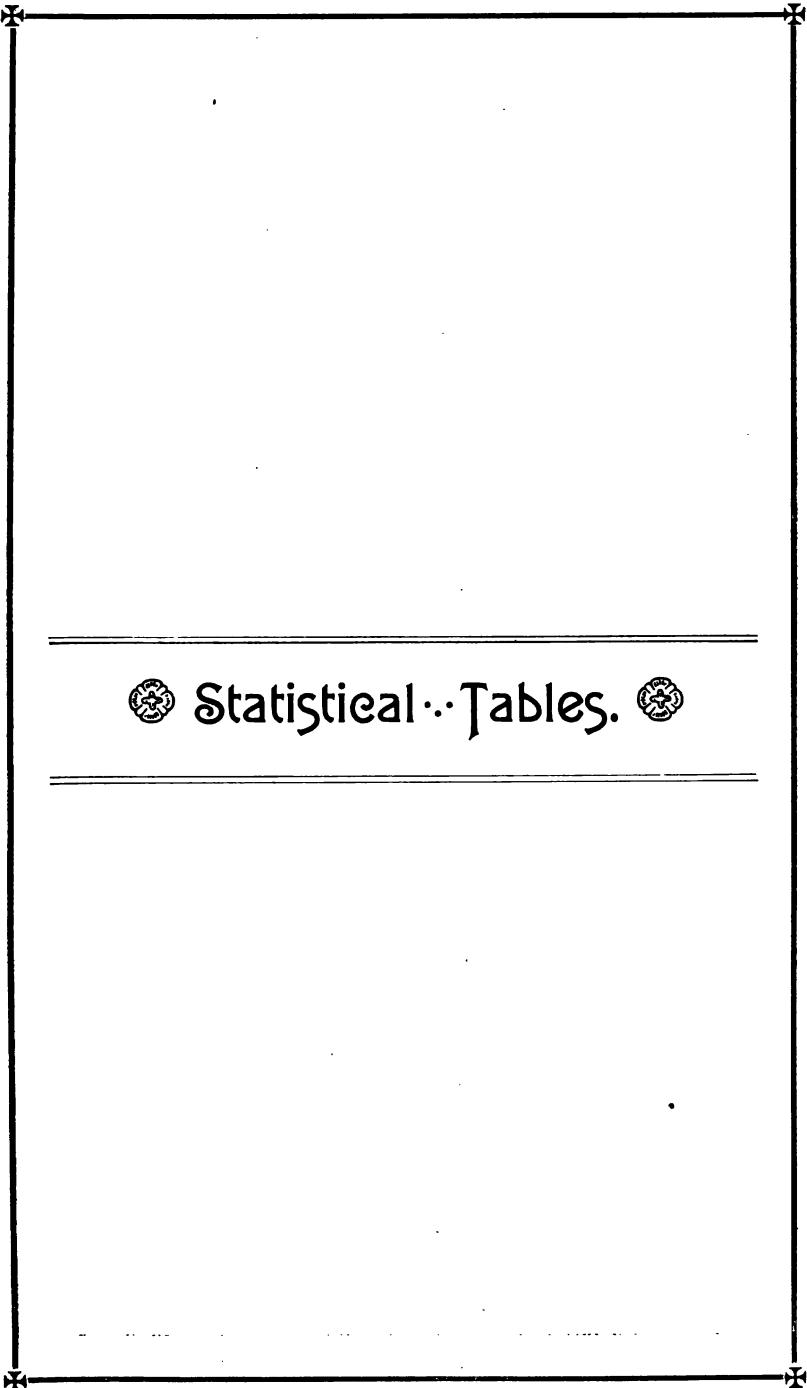
EDWARD D. BENEDICT,
Acting Grand Recorder.

The next conclave will be held on the second Tuesday in May next, being the 10th day of May, 1887, commencing at the hour of 10 o'clock A. M., at Masonic Temple, in the city of Grand Rapids.









◎ Statistical Tables. ◎

RECAPITULATION OF ANNUAL RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE COMMANDERIES.

NAME AND LOCATION.	NUMBER.	RECORDED.		EMINENT COMMANDER.	RECORDED.
		Members.	Dees as reported.		
Detroit, Detroit.....	15	2	3	Walter G. Seely.....	\$ 250 50
Pontiac, Pontiac.....	10	9	8	Joseph E. Sawyer.....	88 25
Forreka, Hillsdale.....	2	1	2	Zimri D. Thomas.....	75 25
Adrian, Adrian.....	4	2	3	John T. Cranne.....	115 50
DeMola, Grand Rapids.....	4	2	1	John W. Finch.....	100 50
Romeo, Romeo.....	14	2	6	Edward D. Bennett.....	169 75
Port Huron, Port Huron.....	3	1	1	Henry F. Hastings.....	46 50
Peninsular, Kalamazoo.....	2	2	4	James Gray.....	83
Jackson, Jackson.....	12	1	1	Frank E. Wellington.....	64 00
Jacobs, Coldwater.....	11	8	6	Henry N. Botsford.....	162 75
Ionia, Ionia.....	4	1	1	Thomas J. Hewson.....	196
Niles, Niles.....	5	2	1	A. D. Lathron.....	160 00
Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor.....	21	3	4	John B. Parinton.....	196
Fenton, Fenton.....	11	2	3	David S. Corover.....	82 75
Genesee Valley, Flint.....	5	4	4	John W. Miller.....	77 75
St. Bernard, East Saginaw.....	10	1	1	E. Byron Miller.....	98
Marshall, Marshall.....	4	1	1	Edward M. La Pierre.....	75 25
Columbia, Sturgis.....	5	6	5	William J. Gilbert.....	120 00
Monroe, Monroe.....	4	1	1	William A. Tolchard.....	59
Corunna, Corunna.....	11	2	3	Walter W. Millard.....	120 00
Muskegon, Muskegon.....	11	1	1	Lorenzo D. Cook.....	120 00
Pilgrim, Big Rapids.....	10	1	1	Benji W. MacCausland.....	120 00
St. Johns, St. Johns.....	4	2	2	David A. Coles.....	120 00
Lansing, Lansing.....	4	1	1	Marcus D. Kirk.....	120 00
Bay City, Bay City.....	17	7	2	Henry L. Anthony.....	120 00
Lexington, Lexington.....	6	1	1	Alfred I. Sawyer.....	120 00
Howell, Howell.....	1	2	1	Thomas Nelar.....	120 00
Three Rivers, Three Rivers.....	4	1	1	Charles T. Hills.....	120 00
St. Johns, St. Johns.....	10	1	1	Edward W. Hadnutt.....	120 00
Apollo, Linden.....	6	2	2	John D. Henderson.....	120 00
Manistee, Manistee.....	13	1	2	John F. Friske.....	120 00
Battle Creek, Battle Creek.....	3	3	1	Benjamin F. Davis.....	120 00
Alpena, Alpena.....	3	3	1	Ebenezer Thompson.....	120 00
				Charles H. Pomeroy.....	143 50
				Shubba D. Runnels.....	55 00
				Henry N. Spener.....	24 75
				Isaac Stow.....	85 25
				Charles W. Backus.....	76 25
				Varun B. Cochran.....	51 75
				William G. Holden.....	62 00
				Edward D. Wadsworth.....	42 25
				Daniel R. Gribow.....	30 00
				Marshall N. Bedford.....	

55	Menominee, Menominee.....	10	1	.....	.....	.....	56	55	75	Benjamin T. Phillips
56	Ivanhoe, Petoskey.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	40	38	60	James Buckley
57	Charlotte, Charlotte.....	40	3	.....	.....	.....	75	103	80	Daniel B. Anger
58	*Montrose, Hancock.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	George W. Bowley
	Total	310	33	15	126	8	35	6	44	3,050	\$3,105 50

* Charter granted May 12, 1886.
Received from Montrose Commandery, \$34.00.

**ELECTED OFFICERS OF GRAND COMMANDERY OF MICHIGAN, AND DATE OF SERVICE, SINCE ITS
ORGANIZATION, JANUARY 15, 1857.**

YEAR.	GRAND COMMANDER.	DEPUTY GRAND COMMANDER.	GRAND GENERALISSIMO.	GRAND CAPTAIN GENERAL.	GRAND PRELATE.
1857	John Gilbert, Jr.	W.E. D. Cone	William P. Innes	James Darrah	Rev. D. C. Jacobs
1858	² Nathaniel P. Jacobs	William P. Innes	² Francis Darrow	Theron A. Flower	Rev. D. C. Jacobs
1859	³ Nathaniel P. Jacobs	William P. Innes	³ Francis Darrow	⁶ John Clark	¹⁰ Rev. D. S. Lundeen
1860	William P. Innes	² Francis Darrow	⁵ John Clark	Leman R. Atwater	¹⁰ Rev. D. Burnham Tracy
1861	² Francis Darrow	⁵ John Clark	Leman R. Atwater	D. Burnham Tracy	¹⁰ Rev. D. Brayton Lyon
1862	⁵ John Clark	Leman R. Atwater	D. Burnham Tracy	Benjamin Porter	¹⁰ Rev. D. Brayton Lyon
1863	Leman R. Atwater	Benjamin Porter	George A. Fitch	George A. Fitch	¹⁰ Rev. D. Brayton Lyon
1864	Benjamin Porter	Carra B. Noble	⁸ Seaman L. Dart	John H. Armstrong	A. J. Eldred
1865	Carra B. Noble	Edward D. Benedict	William F. King	Charles J. Kruger	John H. Armstrong
1866	⁸ Seaman L. Dart	Edward D. Benedict	William F. King	Rev. William Stowe	Charles J. Kruger
1867	Edward D. Benedict	William F. King	John H. Armstrong	Rev. William Stowe	John H. Armstrong
1868	John H. Armstrong	Augustine G. Hibbard	Augustine G. Hibbard	John L. Mitchell	Rev. William Stowe
1869	Theron A. Flower	David Roseve	David Roseve	Lewis C. Starkey	Rev. Israel Coggeshall
1870	John L. Mitchell	Lewis C. Starkey	Lewis C. Starkey	Ellery L. Garfield	¹⁰ Rev. Israel Coggeshall
1871	Irving M. Smith	¹⁰ Oliver L. Spaulding	¹⁰ Oliver L. Spaulding	Ellery L. Garfield	¹⁰ Rev. A. J. Davis
1872	Oliver L. Spaulding	Leonard H. Randall	Leonard H. Randall	Salmon S. Matthews	¹⁰ Rev. A. J. Davis
1873	Ellery L. Garfield	Leonard H. Randall	Leonard H. Randall	Samuel C. Handall	¹⁰ Rev. A. J. Davis
1874	Leonard H. Randall	Charles T. Hills	Samuel C. Handall	¹⁰ Richard J. Carney	¹⁰ Rev. W. H. Tillinghast
1875	Charles T. Hills	Samuel C. Handall	Hugh McCurdy	Hollis F. Knapp	⁷ Rev. W. H. Tillinghast
1876	Samuel C. Handall	Hugh McCurdy	Hollis F. Knapp	Frank Henderson	¹⁰ Rev. George W. Wilson
1877	Hugh McCurdy	Hollis F. Knapp	Frank Henderson	William B. Wilson	¹⁰ Rev. George W. Wilson
1878	Hollis F. Knapp	Frank Henderson	William B. Wilson	Eugene Robinson	¹⁰ Rev. George W. Wilson
1879	Frank Henderson	William B. Wilson	George W. Chandler	Eugene Robinson	¹¹ Rev. George D. L. Mortimer
1880	William B. Wilson	George W. Chandler	Charles E. Grissom	Eugene Robinson	¹¹ Rev. George W. Wilson
1881	George W. Chandler	Charles E. Grissom	Jesse E. Saxton	Eugene Robinson	¹¹ Rev. Francis A. Bladée
1882	Charles E. Grissom	Jesse E. Saxton	Heman N. Moore	Eugene Robinson	¹¹ Rev. Francis A. Bladée
1883	Jesse E. Saxton	Heman N. Moore	R. Allen Hall	Eugene Robinson	¹¹ Rev. Francis A. Bladée
1884	Heman N. Moore	R. Allen Hall	William S. Lawrence	Eugene Robinson	¹¹ Rev. Francis A. Bladée
1885	R. Allen Hall	William S. Lawrence	William H. Williams	Eugene Robinson	¹¹ Rev. Francis A. Bladée
1886	William S. Lawrence	William H. Williams	Charles H. Williams	Edward W. Bigelow	¹¹ Rev. Francis A. Bladée

¹⁰Died in 1884. ¹¹Died Sept. 10, 1884.

ELECTED OFFICERS OF GRAND COMMANDERY OF MICHIGAN, DATE OF SERVICE, ETC.—Continued.

YEAR.	GRAND SENIOR WARDEN.	GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN.	GRAND TREASURER.	GRAND RECORDER.	DATE OF MEETING.
1857.....	¹⁴ George W. Wilson.....	Theron A. Flower.....	*William Barclay.....	Thomas Anderson.....	April 7.....
1858.....	Linman R. Atwater.....	John Clark.....	*William Barclay.....	George W. Wilson.....	June 1.....
1859.....	Linman R. Atwater.....	Theron A. Flower.....	*William Barclay.....	George W. Wilson.....	June 1.....
1860.....	10 A. B. Ayres.....	Franklin T. Eddy.....	*William Barclay.....	George W. Wilson.....	June 5.....
1861.....	10 A. B. Ayres.....	Samuel L. Darle.....	*William Barclay.....	George W. Wilson.....	June 4.....
1862.....	Theron A. Flower.....	Alonzo Noble.....	*William Barclay.....	George W. Wilson.....	June 3.....
1863.....	Theron A. Flower.....	William F. King.....	*William Barclay.....	Oliver Bourke.....	June 7.....
1864.....	Edward D. Benedict.....	John L. Mitchell.....	*William Barclay.....	Oliver Bourke.....	June 6.....
1865.....	Charles J. Kruger.....	John L. Mitchell.....	*William Barclay.....	Oliver Bourke.....	June 5.....
1866.....	John L. Mitchell.....	David Boyce.....	*William Barclay.....	Oliver Bourke.....	June 4.....
1867.....	John L. Mitchell.....	Lewis C. Starkey.....	*William Barclay.....	Oliver Bourke.....	June 2.....
1868.....	John Goldsmith, Jr.....	Carlos G. Curtis.....	*William Barclay.....	Oliver Bourke.....	June 1.....
1869.....	1 ⁴ Carlos G. Curtis.....	Irving M. Smith.....	*William Barclay.....	William P. Innes.....	June 6.....
1870.....	Leonard H. Randal.....	Samuel C. Randall.....	Martin S. Smith.....	William P. Innes.....	June 4.....
1871.....	Samuel C. Randall.....	Richard J. Carney.....	Martin S. Smith.....	William P. Innes.....	June 8.....
1872.....	Richard J. Carney.....	Charles E. Grissom.....	Martin S. Smith.....	William P. Innes.....	June 7.....
1873.....	Richard J. Carney.....	George W. Baker.....	Martin S. Smith.....	William P. Innes.....	June 6.....
1874.....	George W. Baker.....	Frank Henderson.....	Martin S. Smith.....	William P. Innes.....	June 5.....
1875.....	Frank Henderson.....	William B. Wilson.....	Martin S. Smith.....	William P. Innes.....	June 4.....
1876.....	William B. Wilson.....	Robert G. Chandler.....	Martin S. Smith.....	William P. Innes.....	May 8.....
1877.....	Robert G. Chandler.....	¹⁵ James B. Newton.....	Martin S. Smith.....	William P. Innes.....	May 14.....
1878.....	George W. Chandler.....	Charles E. Grissom.....	Martin S. Smith.....	William P. Innes.....	May 13.....
1879.....	George W. Chandler.....	Edward W. Kelly.....	Martin S. Smith.....	William P. Innes.....	May 11.....
1880.....	George W. Chandler.....	Heman N. Moore.....	Martin S. Smith.....	William P. Innes.....	May 9.....
1881.....	George W. Chandler.....	R. Allen Hall.....	H. Shaw Noble.....	William P. Innes.....	May 8.....
1882.....	George W. Chandler.....	B. Allen Hall.....	H. Shaw Noble.....	William P. Innes.....	May 13.....
1883.....	John R. Bennett.....	John R. Bennett.....	H. Shaw Noble.....	William P. Innes.....	May 12.....
1884.....	Thomas H. Williams.....	William S. Lawrence.....	H. Shaw Noble.....	William P. Innes.....	May 11.....
1885.....	Charles P. Bigelow.....	Charles P. Bigelow.....	H. Shaw Noble.....	William P. Innes.....	May 11.....
1886.....	John A. Gerow.....	John A. Gerow.....	H. Shaw Noble.....	William P. Innes.....	May 11.....

¹ Died July 30, 1871.

² Died May 30, 1874.

³ Died April 11, 1873.

⁴ Died April 8, 1874.

⁵ Died April 17, 1879.

⁶ Died May 9, 1879.

⁷ Died February 4, 1876.

⁸ Died August 19, 1879.

⁹ Died in 1880.

¹⁰ Expelled.

¹¹ Removed from jurisdiction.

¹² Suspended.

¹³ Died in 1882.

¹⁴ Died Nov. 20, 1882.

¹⁵ Died Jan. 22, 1885.

DATE OF ORGANIZATION, WITH NAME AND ADDRESS OF GRAND COMMANDERS AND GRAND RECORDERS.

Also Chairman of Foreign Correspondence, From the Latest Proceedings Received Since Last Report.

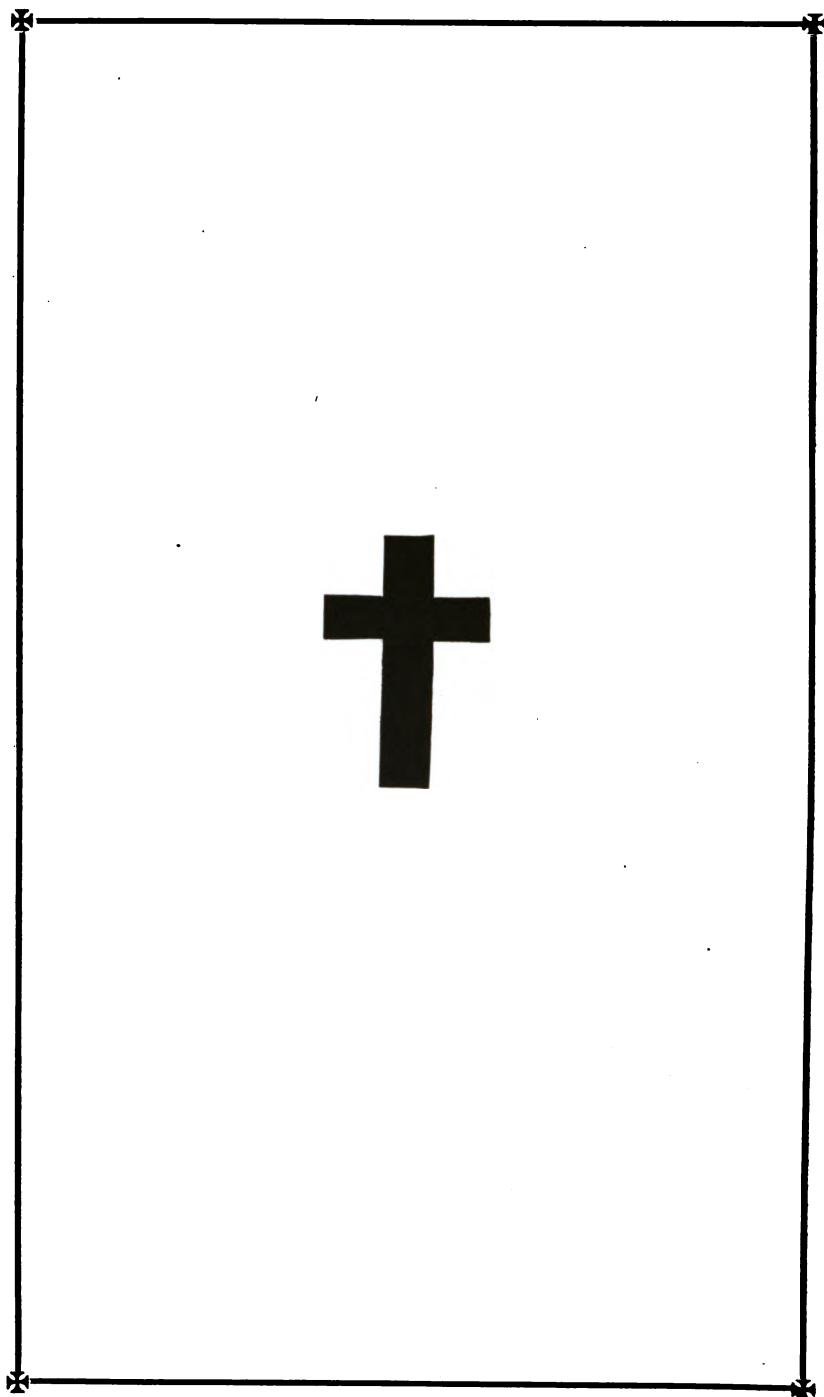
STATES.	DATE OF ORGANIZATION.	NAME AND RESIDENCE OF R. E. GRAND COMMANDER.	NAME AND RESIDENCE OF E. GRAND RECORDER.	NAME AND RESIDENCE OF CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.
Alabama	December 1, 1862.	James T. Holtzclaw, Montgomery.	Daniel Sayre, Montgomery.....	Daniel Sayre, Montgomery.....
Arkansas	March 25, 1872.	Benjamin F. Atkinson, Ft. Smith.	James Austin, Little Rock.	No Committee
California	August 10, 1858.	Philip Waller Keyser, Marysville.	Thomas H. Caswell, San Francisco.	Thomas H. Caswell, San Francisco.
Colorado	March 14, 1876.	Horace N. Banks, South Pueblo.	Ed. C. Parmelee, Georgetown.	Harper M. Orohood, Denver.
Connecticut	September 13, 1827.	William Elmer Seeley, Bridgeport.	Joseph Kellogg, Wheeler, Hartford	Joseph Kellogg, Wheeler, Hartford
Dakota	May 14, 1884.	Daniel S. Gildidden, Sioux Falls.	Bruce M. Rowley, Huron.	W. H. Beadle, Yankton.
Georgia	April 25, 1860.	Thomas Ballantyne, Savannah.	Samuel P. Hamilton, Savannah.	Roland B. Hall, Macon.
Illinois	October 27, 1857.	John Lane White, Bloomington.	Gilbert W. Barnard, Chicago.	Henry Collings Bauney, Chicago.
Indiana	May 16, 1854.	Henry C. Adams, Indianapolis.	John M. Bramwell, Indianapolis.	Nickolas R. Rueckle, Indianapolis.
Iowa	June 16, 1864.	William A. McGrew, Ottumwa.	John C. Parish, Des Moines.	Thomas R. Ercanbrack, Anamosa.
Kansas	December 20, 1868.	Burton E. Langdon, Fort Scott.	John H. Brown, Wauwatone.	John H. Brown, Wauwatone.
Kentucky	October 5, 1847.	John S. Lyle, Covington.	Lorenzo Dow Croninger, Covington	Charles R. Woodruff, Louisville.
Louisiana	February 4, 1864.	A. H. De Pass, New Orleans.	Richard Lambert, New Orleans.	Joseph P. Horne, New Orleans.
Maine	May 3, 1852.	John O. Shaw, Bath.	Stephen Barry, Portland.	Stephen Barry, Portland.
Maryland	January 23, 1871.	C. C. Isaacs, Baltimore.	F. J. S. Gorges, Baltimore.	F. J. S. Gorges, Baltimore.
Mass. and Rhode Island	May 6, 1805.	George H. Burnham, Providence.	Alfred F. Chapman, Boston.	Alfred F. Chapman, Boston.
Michigan	January 25, 1857.	William S. Lawrence, Kalamazoo.	William P. Innes, Grand Rapids.	William P. Innes, Grand Rapids.
Minnesota	October 23, 1865.	W. D. Cornish, St. Paul.	A. T. C. Pierson, St. Paul.	A. T. C. Pierson, St. Paul.
Mississippi	January 22, 1857.	John H. Gordon, Port Gibson.	John L. Power, Jackson.	E. George DeLap, Natchez.
Missouri	May 22, 1860.	George F. Rogers, Hamilton.	William H. Mayo, St. Louis.	Wm. H. Mayo, St. Louis.
Nebraska	December 28, 1871.	Allen B. Smith, Omaha.	John J. Monell, Jr., Omaha.	John J. Monell, Jr., Omaha.
New Hampshire	August 22, (1821) 1860.	Don Herman Woodward, Keene.	George Perley Cleaves, Concord.	John James Bell, Exeter.
New Jersey	February 14, 1860.	John H. Ackerman, Jersey City.	Charles Bechtel, Trenton.	Charles Bechtel, Trenton.
New York	June 18, 1840.	Peter Forster, New York.	Robert Macoy, Brooklyn.	John W. Simons, New York.
North Carolina	May 10, 1881.	Donald W. Bain, Raleigh.	James C. Minns, Statesville.	James Southgate, Durham.
Ohio	October 24, 1843.	Charles E. Stanley, Cleveland.	James Nesbit, Troy.	Enoch T. Carson, Cincinnati.
Pennsylvania	April 11, 1844.	Joseph Alexander, Jr., Scranton.	Charles E. Meyer, Philadelphia.	William J. Kelley, Philadelphia.
Tennessee	October 12, 1859.	Henry C. Hensley, Nashville.	Wilbur F. Foster, Nashville.	Morton B. Howell, Nashville.
Texas	January 19, 1855.	Nat Wylie, Hunter, Palestine.	Robert Brewster, Palestine.	John C. McCoy, Dallas.
Vermont	August 14, (1821) 1881.	Thad. M. Chapman, Middlebury.	William C. Bradbury, Vergennes.	Frederick S. Fisher, St. Johnsbury.
Virginia	November 27, 1822.	Frank A. Reed, Alexandria.	William B. Isaacs, Richmond.	William B. Isaacs, Richmond.

West Virginia.....	February 25, 1874.....	Will H. Riggs, Martinsburg.....
Wisconsin.....	October 28, 1859.....	George H. Rosenberg, Milwaukee.....
Grand Encampment, Great Priory Canada	June 21, 1816.....	John W. Laffin, Milwaukee.....
Great Priory, England and Wales.....	October 9, 1876.....	Theodore S. Parvin, Iowa City.....
		Daniel Spry, Barrie, Ontario.....
		No committee.....

West Virginia.....	February 25, 1874.....	George F. Irvine, Wheeling.....
Wisconsin.....	October 28, 1859.....	William C. Swain, Milwaukee.....
Grand Encampment, Great Priory Canada	June 21, 1816.....	Robert E. Withers, Alexandria.....
Great Priory, England and Wales.....	October 9, 1876.....	W. J. B. MacLeod Moore, G. C. T., Prescott, Ontario.....
		Col. Shadwell H. Clerke, London.....
		W. Tinkler, 22 Chancery Lane, London.....



Memorial Tablets.





"Lives of 'good' men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us,
Footprints on the sands of time."



St. Johns, No. 24.
Clinton E. Merritt, November 16, 1885.
Bay City, No. 26.
Charles B. Cottrell, August 8, '85.
Henry A. Cameron, September 10, '85.
Howell, No. 28.
James A. Brown, May 4, '85.
Three Rivers, No. 29.
Daniel J. Wolf, May 6, '85.
M. E. Saville, June 27, '85.
George Paschler, January 9, '86.
Manistee, No. 32.
Alla O. Ward, October 26, '85.
Alpena, No. 34.
Seth L. Carpenter,
October 19, 1885.

"What were death, if with to-day
Life's great problem passed away
All unsolved, and still a mystery."

Correspondence

Correspondence





Correspondence.

To the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of the State of Michigan:

THE unerring stream of time has borne to eternity another year, and has carried us just so much nearer towards the changeless scenes of that undiscovered country from which no traveler returns—to that world “where vanities are vain no more,” and where, we are taught in the divine word of God, “He that is holy will be holy still.”

Oh, how swiftly the past year has gone! It seems but yesterday that your committee presented their last report; yet, swift as it has gone, we miss many that were with us one year ago. The roll has been called, but no answer; we look in vain for a word from them, yet feel they are in the full enjoyment of the honors and awards that await the valiant Templar.

To the corps reportorial, with whom we have, in our mind, passed many pleasant hours during our review, we say: we enter on our labors with “malice towards none;” we greet them as our respected Fraters; we ask their forgiveness

if, perchance, they think we have done anything to offend, and we ask their charitable criticisms on our work.

Our review this year embraces thirty-three Grand Jurisdictions; and, following the usual custom, we give them in alphabetical order:

Alabama	1885	Mississippi	1885
Arkansas	1885	Missouri.....	1885
California	1885	Minnesota	1885
Canada	1885	Nebraska	1885
Colorado	1885	New Hampshire	1885
Dakota	1885	New Jersey.....	1885
England and Wales.....	1885	New York.....	1885
Georgia	1885	North Carolina.....	1885
Illinois	1885	Ohio	1885
Indiana	1885	Pennsylvania.....	1885
Iowa	1885	Tennessee	1885
Kansas	1885	Texas	1885
Kentucky.....	1885	Vermont	1885
Louisiana.....	1886	Virginia	1885
Maine	1885	West Virginia.....	1885
Maryland	1885	Wisconsin	1885
Mass. and Rhode Island.....	1885		



ALABAMA.

THE twenty-fifth annual conclave was held in the city of Selma, commencing May 20, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir JAMES THADDEUS HOLTZCLAW, Grand Commander.

Sir DANIEL SAYRE, Grand Recorder.

Five subordinate Commanderies represented. One Past Grand Commander present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander refers to the Order, in the opening of his address, as follows:

Since our last annual conclave a storm of political excitement has swept over the land; its angry surges rolling in muttered thunders from Maine to California. It is the highest gratification to us, that the Knights Templar, as an organization, were unmoved by the storm, unaffected by the fierce whirlwind of excitement, each without our lines performing his duty as might seem best to him, while within our sacred Asylum the name of politics is unknown. There burn perpetual on the Altar the pure fires of Christian charity; and our society asks not the political faith of him who feeds the flame; but, like the founders of our Order, the grand old heroes who carved immortality with the sword, they look alone to the great emblem of our faith and its motto—*in hoc signo vinces*—asking but a belief in its story as revealed in the written word, the pledge of a true heart, and an honorable, upright life, to make the Knight Templar of to-day.

The Grand Commander has performed much routine business during the year.

CLOSING.

He closes his address by saying:

My correspondence with other jurisdictions has been very small, and elicited nothing worthy of bringing to your attention.

All that I have had has been of the most cordial and fraternal character; and I am happy to report to you, that the Grand Commandery of Alabama is in full accord and harmony with the Grand Encamp-

ment of the United States, and all the subordinate Grand Commanderies of that august body.

RESOLUTION.

The following resolution, offered by Sir Knight William F. Aldrich, was adopted:

Resolved, That the resolution heretofore adopted making Grant's tactics the tactics of this Grand Commandery be rescinded; and that a committee of three be appointed by the Grand Commander to report at the next grand annual conclave which is the best tactics to be used by the Grand Commandery.

It is a pity that the Grand Encampment of the United States, with whom Alabama is in such full accord, can't furnish them with the needed "tactics." We recommend Grand Commander Holtzclaw to test the utility of the Grand Encampment on this point next fall at St. Louis.

ADDRESS.

A very finely written address was delivered before the Grand Commandery by Sir Knight George F. Moore. It would afford us much pleasure to quote from this address did our space permit. We commend its reading to all.

REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir Daniel Sayre writes the report on correspondence, and *ubs himself* "Reporter." It is good! Thirty-two states are courteously reviewed.

IOWA.

Under his say of Iowa, Sir Knight Sayre quotes from Sir Knight Guilbert's report, and says of the compensation paid him:

He does not think that the pay of the chairman of the committee on correspondence is enough, and we do not believe it is in that jurisdiction. He only gets fifty dollars, and Sir Knight Guilbert writes 150 pages. Either the pay ought to be lengthened, or the report ought to be shortened, and we do not see how the latter could be done without

great detriment to the Commandery. However, for the current year, they brought the pay up to \$75.

MICHIGAN.

Michigan for 1885 comes in for a good word from Sir Knight Sayre, and for personal mention, we say thanks!

Of our doings, he says:

Among divers other dispensations he had granted one for the election of Prelate; but we do not see why an Eminent Commander cannot fill vacancies in all subordinate offices by appointment.

The Grand Commandery, on a report of its committee on jurisprudence, decided that a Commandery could not grant a dimit to a Sir Knight of unsound mind upon the request of his guardian. Now, as the Sir Knight is of unsound mind, and cannot act for himself, and has a guardian to act for him, his own request for a dimit would amount to nothing—even if he could make it. It strikes us that the Grand Commandery erred.

An Eminent Commander in our jurisdiction cannot fill vacancies, 'cause why? Our constitution says no; a dispensation must be had from the Grand Commander. He thinks the Grand Commandery erred in ruling that a Commandery could not grant a dimit to a Sir Knight of an unsound mind upon the request of his guardian.

We firmly believe the Grand Commandery ruled rightly. A dimit must be granted only upon the written request of the applicant himself. Suppose, in God's own time, the Sir Knight was restored to his former state of mind, what would be his status? A non-affiliated Knight Templar against his will and by the act of another. Reconsider, Sir Knight Sayre.

MISSISSIPPI.

Under Mississippi he says:

The report on correspondence is by that eminent and distinguished Sir Knight, George DeLap. He reviews the proceedings of nearly all the Grand Commanderies—perhaps all, but he no where enumerates them, and we have not the time just now to do so—and among them those of Alabama for 1888. As we progress we have no doubt we shall

find the report of the Sir Knight a good one, for he is capable of writing such; but in reviewing Alabama he appears to have been in a bad humor. He acknowledges he did not feel well, and we fear his digestive organs were out of fix. He must have had a fit of indigestion, which we suspect is a bad thing for a correspondence reporter; and he does plead guilty to being a chronic dyspeptic. He gives the Prince of Wales particular fits. Whether the Prince is as bad as he is represented, we do not know. And it is none of our business, and we are not going to trouble ourselves about it. Nevertheless, the Sir Knight was so taken up with him that he forgot to say anything about Alabama. In fact, he was so taken up with him that by the time he got to California he had even forgotten our name. However, we are a better Christian than he thinks, and we forgive him.

Sir DeLap, stand up and hear your sentence! My dear boy, you must get cured of that dyspeptic feeling, and write a pretty little love letter to the Prince of Wales and to Sir Knight Sayre.

CONCLUSION.

We give Sir Sayre's concluding remarks:

We have done the best we could, and if the Reporters do not speak well of this report, we shall always think they ought to. But if they do not, we are not going to quit, but shall get a new pen, a fresh bottle of ink, and try it again. Alabama is not going to be behind in anything that is going on. She has some good Commanderies, a good corps of officers, and would have a better Reporter, perhaps, if she had somebody else; but that we doubt. And we would not say that on ordinary occasions, but then—we are a modest man, and don't like to blow our own horn. And so, to one and all—good-bye.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir JAMES THADDEUS HOLTZCLAW, Montgomery, re-elected Grand Commander.

Sir DANIEL SAYRE, Montgomery, re-elected Grand Recorder.

ARKANSAS.

THE thirteenth annual conclave was held at Little Rock, commencing May 12, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir **ALFRED A. TUFTS**, Grand Commander.

Sir **JAMES A. HENRY**, Grand Recorder.

Seven subordinate Commanderies represented. Five Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander, in his address, beautifully alludes to the death of Sir Knight Elbert Hartwell English, and says of him:

For months our beloved Frater had been in feeble health; he was not with us at our last annual conclave, owing to his inability to bear the fatigue of the journey from his home, and in the vain hope of being benefited he sought the pure atmosphere of North Carolina, but, alas, to no purpose. The dread summons came, and he obeyed like a true Knight, "without fear and without reproach." His was a long and useful life. He may well be called one of the "fathers of Masonry" in this jurisdiction. That he was held in the highest esteem by his Fraters and brethren, was proven by the fact that nearly every important office in their gift was bestowed upon him. In each and every position he was a living example of the precepts which he taught. Few men have been more beloved or more deeply lamented. His record as a Knight Templar was pure and spotless; one we should all strive to emulate.

DECISIONS.

He has no official decisions to report.

DISPENSATIONS.

Dispensations were granted for the formation of two new Commanderies.

REPRESENTATIVES.

The Grand Commander reports that he has received notice of the appointment of eleven Sir Knights as represent-

atives of sister jurisdictions near his own, and that he has appointed seven Sir Knights as representatives of his Grand Commandery, and says of the whole matter:

While I can see no practical good to be accomplished from this system of representation, yet as it is considered an honor to be the recipient of a commission, and entitles the holder thereof to many of the good things of this life, whenever they visit their accredited jurisdictions, I by no means oppose the system.

GRAND ENCAMPMENT.

We quote in full what Grand Commander Tufts says regarding the Grand Encampment of the United States:

A variety of opinions exist as to the necessity for a Grand Encampment. Many addresses, long and labored, have been delivered against the longer continuance of what is called a useless and expensive luxury. Some call it a mere machine, a ring, where honors and offices are secured by the few who seem to run it. In looking over the proceedings of other Grand Jurisdictions, I find a large number of Right Eminent Grand Commanders in their addresses, and the committee on foreign correspondence, in their reports, condemn it in unmeasured terms; some seem to do it conscientiously, others from force of habit, and still others for the sake of being on the popular side. It is to be presumed the representatives from these jurisdictions were all present at the last Triennial Conclave. Were they not, they should condemn themselves; they are estopped from assailing the acts of others when they make no effort to correct or prevent them. Were they present, it would seem they made very little effort to force that attention to business, the apparent neglect of which they so bitterly condemn. I doubt not but that they were active participants in all the excursions and entertainments so lavishly prepared by our Fraters on the coast, all the while their "pious souls" were being so terribly shocked by the extravagance and utter folly of the whole affair. Why did they not remain in their asylum, and if in a minority and unable to transact business, by their actions set the seal of condemnation upon such frivolous amusements? I presume they enjoyed the good things as well as the others.

But a grave necessity does exist for the perpetuity of the Grand Encampment. We need a head, one that can read and expound the law with authority. Templar law should be the same this broad country over. One in spirit and one in ritual—the work in Maine

should be the same as in Arkansas. Already have we heard of the "Kentucky work," the "New York work," and the "Ohio work." I feel that I can but indorse the sentiments of my predecessor in this matter: "A central governing power to declare and enforce the law is absolutely necessary." As the Grand Encampment is composed of representatives from every Grand Jurisdiction, why fear or condemn it? Abolish it, and what would be the result? A Templar receiving the Orders in Arkansas would probably be deemed an imposter in Ohio, and one from Ohio would be looked upon with suspicion in Kentucky. How long would it be before Templarism would be wrecked upon the shoals of discord and division?

The committee on jurisprudence, to whom that part of his address was referred, say:

As to the Grand Encampment, we concur with the Right Eminent Grand Commander, that "a grave necessity does exist for the perpetuity of the Grand Encampment. We need a head, one that can read and expound the law with authority."

We blush for the committee, and also for the Grand Commander, when they say that without a Grand Encampment Templarism would be wrecked. No, no, Sir Knights, never! Templar Masonry can exist as well without the Grand Encampment, as Symbolic Masonry exists without a General Grand Lodge. We are (personally) of our same opinion. The Grand Encampment is of no practical use, and without it we would be much better off, as an order.

UNIFORMS.

Following Sir Tufts "great puff" on the Grand Encampment, we quote what he says of their failure on uniform, etc., and ask him to reconcile it with what he said before relative to the *great* usefulness of the *great* body:

Inasmuch as the Grand Encampment does not see fit to enforce its laws in regard to uniforms, I deem it wise that some action in this matter should be taken by our Grand Commandery. According to the regulations of your Grand Body, "when the Orders of Knighthood are to be conferred, all Knights present *must* be in full dress, whether in the Asylum or Council Chamber." This regulation, no doubt, is vio-

lated by a majority of the Commanderies within this jurisdiction, and each and every Sir Knight who fails to equip himself properly, unless he can actually plead poverty as an excuse, should be subject to discipline by the Commandery.

There is no doubt that our knightly regalia should be uniform, at least within this jurisdiction. The question of quality might be left to each subordinate Commandery, but the habit of each Sir Knight selecting his own uniform to suit himself, should be discontinued. A purchasing committee should be appointed, and if the business of the whole jurisdiction could be centered upon one house or firm, I think it would be wise to do so—the greater the volume of business, the smaller the margin of profit as a rule.

ADDRESS.

The address of Sir Knight Tullius C. Tupper is beautiful in sentiment and well worthy of careful perusal by every Sir Knight. He closes by giving the following advice to all true and valiant Knights:

Sir Knights, be true, be valiant, be faithful, and when the summons is sent down from the Grand Commander of the Universe, to enter the Asylum above, when the Angel of Death beckons thee away, your obligations all safely kept, your duties all nobly fulfilled, your work well done, may you be consecrated a Knight triumphant in the courts above, where you shall share with your ascended Lord and King the glories of His ransomed and redeemed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

No report on correspondence.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir BENJAMIN F. ATKINSON, Fort Smith, elected Grand Commander.

Sir JAMES AUSTIN HENRY, Little Rock, re-elected Grand Recorder.

CALIFORNIA.

THE twenty-seventh annual conclave was held in the city of San Francisco, commencing April 30, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir WILLIAM MONROE PETRIE, Grand Commander.

Sir THOMAS HUBBARD CASWELL, Grand Recorder.

Twenty - two subordinate Commanderies represented.
Seven Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander opens his address as follows:

We are about entering upon the duties and responsibilities of the twenty-seventh annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of California, and while we invoke the guidance of the Supreme Ruler of the universe in all our endeavors, and his blessing upon all our acts, let us not forget to render unto Him sincere thanksgiving for all the benefits bestowed upon us; and especially that death has not invaded the ranks of this Grand Commandery. The angel of death has passed the door of our asylum without an alarm, and we are permitted to meet again with full ranks, to renew our vows of fealty and love to the principles of our Order, to review the past, to render an account of our stewardship, and to provide for the future. Let us at the beginning lay aside all personal ambition, and earnestly devote ourselves to such acts of legislation as will strengthen and promote this glorious Order.

As Knights Templar we have duties to perform which should not be forgotten nor neglected. Let our lives coincide in beauty and perfection as near as possible with the model supplied by the character of Him whose cross is emblazoned on our banners and impressed upon our hearts.

Seeking that wisdom which is from above, let us set our keen lance firmly against all forms of error, impurity, uncharitableness and injustice. Let us do all in our power to comfort, reform and regenerate fallen humanity, help the downcast, dry the tears and mitigate the wretchedness that surrounds us on every side; remove the temptations

that lie thickly in the pathway of youth; and so live that men seeing our good works may glorify Our Father which is in Heaven.

ORDER OF MALTA.

On the work of the Order of Malta, as promulgated by the Grand Encampment, the Grand Commander says:

As you are aware, the Grand Encampment, at its last conclave, adopted a ritual for the Order of Knights of Malta—in fact, adopted two forms, one quite lengthy and one short ceremonial. These have been received by our Grand Recorder, and distributed to the several subordinate Commanderies. It will be the duty of this Grand Commandery, at this conclave, to adopt one or the other or both of these forms, and if my advice can have any weight, I should decidedly advise the adoption of the short ritual; not only because the work of the preceding Orders involves all the devotion and industry reasonably to be expected from the working officers of our Commanderies, but for several other reasons that will readily suggest themselves to those who have examined the longer ritual thoroughly.

DECISIONS.

On decisions made during the year, he says:

During the year I have not been called upon for any decisions, except such as were easily rendered by referring the Sir Knights to the constitution and edicts of the Grand Encampment of the United States and the Grand Commandery of California, and these cases have been so rare that it indicates a very thorough knowledge of Templar law by the Commanders of the various subordinate Commanderies in this jurisdiction.

CLOSING.

He concludes his painstaking address as follows:

My task is almost completed, and I am about to return to you the authority with which your generous suffrages clothed me one year ago. In doing so, I desire to express my warmest thanks to all the officers and members of the various subordinate Commanderies, for the uniform kindness and courtesy with which I have met in all my official relations. I desire to return special thanks to our Grand Recorder, Eminent Sir Thomas H. Caswell, for the valuable assistance he has rendered me upon many occasions. His ability, skill and counsel have assisted in making my official pathway a smooth one.

When this symbol of authority was placed in my hands, I found the Order in a prosperous condition, with peace and harmony reigning

throughout the jurisdiction; that state of affairs has been maintained, and I shall have the pleasure of turning over the command to my illustrious successor, with full confidence that he will find the true Templar spirit pervading all ranks, and with the hope that his official career will be as pleasant and satisfactory as mine has been; that our beloved Order may continue to grow and flourish in the future, as in the past, and that in the end, when we shall have crossed the dark river, may we receive the welcome, "well done, good and faithful servant."

WITHOUT COMMENT.

We quote the following from the proceedings before us, without comment; some things we like to comment upon and some we don't:

The Grand Recorder, who at the last annual conclave was appointed a special committee to prepare responses for the grand officers in the opening ceremonies of the Grand Commandery, submitted the following, which, on motion, were unanimously adopted, and ordered to be printed in the proceedings:

Grand Commander—Sir Grand Generalissimo, are you a Knight Templar?

Grand Generalissimo—That is my title.

Grand Commander—Where were you created a Knight Templar?

Grand Generalissimo—In a lawful Commandery of Knights Templar.

Grand Commander—What number compose such a Commandery?

Grand Generalissimo—There is an indispensable number, and a constitutional number?

Grand Commander—What is the indispensable number?

Grand Generalissimo—Three.

Grand Commander—Under what circumstances may three Knights Templar form and open a Commandery?

Grand Generalissimo—Three Knights Templar hailing from three different Commanderies, and acting under the sanction of a legal warrant, may form and open a Commandery for the dispatch of business.

Grand Commander—What is the constitutional number?

Grand Generalissimo—Nine, or more.

Grand Commander—When composed of eleven, of whom does it consist?

Grand Generalissimo—The Eminent Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Prelate, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Recorder, Standard Bearer, Sword Bearer, and Warden.

Grand Commander—Of whom is the Grand Commandery composed?

Grand Generalissimo—The R. E. Grand Commander, V. E. Deputy Grand Commander, the E. Grand Generalissimo, Grand Captain General, Grand Prelate, Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder, Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Warder, Grand Organist, Grand Captain of the Guard, all Past Grand Commanders, Past Deputy Grand Commanders, Past Grand Generalissimos, Past Grand Captains General of this Grand Commandery, all Past Commanders by service of chartered Commanderies under its jurisdiction, and the Commanders, Generalissimos and Captains General, for the time, of the several chartered and duly constituted Commanderies subordinate thereto.

Grand Commander—The Grand Warder's station?

Grand Generalissimo—On the left of the Grand Standard Bearer in the West, and on the left of the central division, or Grand Standard Guard.

Grand Commander—Your duty, Sir Grand Warder?

Grand Warder—To announce the approach of the R. E. Grand Commander and his aids; to post the Grand Sentinel, and see that the Grand Asylum is duly guarded.

Grand Commander—The Grand Sword Bearer's station?

Grand Warder—On the right of the Grand Standard Bearer in the West; on the right of the Grand Standard Guard, or on the right, or in front of the central division.

Grand Commander—Your duty, Sir Grand Sword Bearer?

Grand Sword Bearer—To assist in protecting the banner of our Order, and command the Grand Standard Guard, or central division.

Grand Commander—The Grand Standard Bearer's station?

Grand Sword Bearer—In the West; in the centre of the Grand Standard Guard, or central division.

Grand Commander—Your duty, Sir Grand Standard Bearer?

Grand Standard Bearer—To display, support and protect the banner of our Order,

Grand Commander—Why is your station in the West?

Grand Standard Bearer—That the brilliant rays of the rising sun, shedding lustre on the banner of our Order, may animate and encourage all valiant and magnanimous Knights, and confound and dismay their enemies.

Grand Commander—The Grand Recorder's station?

Grand Standard Bearer—On the left front of the Grand Captain General.

Grand Commander—Your duty, Sir Grand Recorder?

Grand Recorder—Faithfully to record the proceedings of the Grand Commandery, collect its revenue and promptly pay it over to the Grand Treasurer.

Grand Commander—The Grand Treasurer's station?

Grand Recorder—On the right front of the Grand Generalissimo.

Grand Commander—Your duty, Sir Grand Treasurer?

Grand Treasurer—To receive in charge the funds and property of the Grand Commandery; pay all orders drawn on the treasury, and when required, render a faithful account of receipts and disbursements.

Grand Commander—The Grand Junior Warden's station?

Grand Treasurer—At the north-west angle of the triangle; on the left, or in front of the second or rear division when separately formed, and on the left of the Grand Commandery when in line.

Grand Commander—Your duty, Sir Grand Junior Warden?

Grand Junior Warden—To command the second (or rear) division, and act as left guide of the Grand Commandery.

Grand Commander—The Grand Senior Warden's station?

Grand Junior Warden—At the south-west angle of the triangle; on the right of the first division when separately formed, and on the right of the Grand Commandery when in line.

Grand Commander—Your duty, Sir Grand Senior Warden?

Grand Senior Warden—To command the first division, and act as right guide of the Grand Commandery.

Grand Commander—The Grand Prelate's station?

Grand Senior Warden—On the right of the Grand Generalissimo.

Grand Commander—Your duty, Sir Grand Prelate?

Grand Prelate—To minister at the altar, and offer up prayers and oblations to Deity.

Grand Commander—The Grand Captain General's station?

Grand Prelate—On the left front of the V. E. Deputy Grand Commander.

Grand Commander—Your duty, Sir Grand Captain General?

Grand Captain General—To see that the proper officers make due preparation for the conclaves of the Grand Commandery; to execute the orders of the R. E. Grand Commander, and in his absence, and that of the V. E. Deputy Grand Commander and E. Grand Generalissimo, to preside.

Grand Commander—The Grand Generalissimo's station?

Grand Captain General—On the right front of the R. E. Grand Commander.

Grand Commander—Your duty, Sir Grand Generalissimo?

Grand Generalissimo—To act as chief aid to the R. E. Grand Commander, and in his absence, and that of the V. E. Deputy Grand Commander, to preside.

Grand Commander—The V. E. Deputy Grand Commander's station?

Grand Generalissimo—On the left of the R. E. Grand Commander.

Grand Commander—Your duty, V. E. Sir Deputy Grand Commander?

Deputy Grand Commander—Faithfully to perform all duties that may be assigned to me by the R. E. Grand Commander or Grand Commandery, and in the absence of the Grand Commander, to be charged with all the powers and duties of that officer.

Grand Commander—The station of the R. E. Grand Commander?

Deputy Grand Commander—In the East.

Grand Commander—And his duty?

Deputy Grand Commander—To inculcate the principles of charity and hospitality, suppress profanity, and have a watchful supervision over the subordinate Commanderies of the jurisdiction; and see that the constitution and statutes of the Order are duly observed.

GRAND OFFICERS.

The following, from the report of doings of Grand Officers, was presented and adopted:

Resolved, That the R. E. Grand Commander, in person or by detail of the Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, or Grand Captain General, visit each subordinate Commandery in the jurisdiction once each year, for the purpose of inspection, instruction and review.

Resolved, That the traveling expenses of said grand officers in such visitations shall be paid upon report thereof by the Grand Commandery.

Your committee agree with the R. E. Grand Commander in regard to the advisability of appointing a committee to prepare a programme of proceedings for this Grand Commandery in its pilgrimage to the Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of the United States, to be held next year at St. Louis. The courtesies extended to us by sister Commanderies of the United States in their long pilgrimage to this coast, and the fraternal greetings of that festive week, demand on our part a cordial return. In accordance, therefore, with the suggestion of the R. E. Grand Commander, we offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That the first four grand officers of this Grand Com-

mandery constitute a committee to prepare a programme of proceedings for this Grand Commandery in its attendance upon the Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of the United States, to be held at St. Louis in 1886, with power to add to their number such other Sir Knights as they may deem best to carry out in a magnanimous manner the spirit of this resolution.

* * * * *

Your committee report back the recommendation of the R. E. Grand Commander in regard to the setting apart a day in each year, in which Commanderies may in full uniform visit the graves of deceased Sir Knights, with appropriate ceremonies, for the candid consideration of this Commandery. Your committee are impressed with the idea that some memorial service should be adopted or permitted in respect to deceased Sir Knights. It is true that we may follow him to the silent resting place, where his body rests in hope of the resurrection, and repeat with fraternal affection the solemn words of our burial service. But it seems becoming that in some still more noticeable manner we should signify our regard for our deceased fratre by some solemn memorial service.

* * * * *

Your committee would also express their gratification in the perusal of the report of the E. Grand Recorder. We are led by years of past faithful service to look for good work from his hand, and we are never disappointed. His present report is a clear and faithful exhibit of the transactions of his office during the year, and the condition of the Grand Commandery at the present time. Long may he be spared to continue such excellent service for this Grand Commandery.

JURISPRUDENCE.

The following reports from the committee on jurisprudence were adopted:

The committee on jurisprudence, to whom was referred the resolution of E. Sir R. H. Lloyd, beg leave to report that they have had the same under consideration, and recommend the adoption of the following resolution in place of that offered by him:

Resolved, That when a companion Royal Arch Mason, in his application for the Orders of Knighthood in any subordinate Commandery, shall be rejected by one ballot, and thereafter a motion shall be made, in said Commandery, to apply to the Grand Commander for a dispensation to re-ballot for such companion, such motion shall lie over until the next regular assembly of such Commandery, when said motion shall be put by secret ballot, and if one ballot appear in the negative

said motion shall be declared lost. And no dispensation for a re-ballot in such cases shall be issued, unless it appear to the Grand Commander, in the application therefor, that a motion to that effect, in such manner, had been passed unanimously in the Commandery.

Your committee on jurisprudence, to whom has been referred the communication of our Eminent Grand Recorder on the discrimination of the uses of the Passion and Persian Crosses in the Order of the Red Cross, would respectfully report that our Eminent Recorder has clearly defined the relations of the two Crosses, and given a more full and clear explanation of the Persian Cross than any we have seen which is accessible for the general information of our Order; we would, therefore, recommend the publication of the communication with our proceedings, as a medium for imparting information.

And we would also recommend that the portion giving the relative significance of the bars of the cross be incorporated into the explanation of the Banner of the Red Cross as usually given in this jurisdiction.

Which report was concurred in, and the recommendations were adopted.

The following is the communication referred to in the foregoing report:

SAN FRANCISCO, March 26, 1885.

SIR WILLIAM GOULD, *Past R. E. Grand Commander*:

DEAR SIR AND FRATER: The erroneous custom of regalia makers in placing a passion cross upon the *green sash*, doubtless gave rise to the query of your friend, *viz*: the "authority for, and propriety of, wearing the Red Cross in a Council of Red Cross Knights." In answer thereto, I offer the following:

For two thousand years before the birth of our Savior, the Cross, with differences in form, was used among the nations of the east as a sacred symbol. Particularly was this the case among the Assyrians and Egyptians, and also among the Copts, Indians and Persians. The Cross recognized and used by the Persians was one of equal bars and equal angles; and to *them* represented the four *equal* attributes or potencies of Deity—"the Divine Wisdom, the Divine Word, the Divine Might, and the Divine Sovereignty." That Cross to-day is the one peculiar to the Order of Red Cross Knights, and in no wise connected with the Passion or Christian Cross; but is distinctly referable to the *attributes* of Deity, as understood and taught by the Persians. Being older than the Cross of the Christian, it can in no manner be thought either to take its place, or to have any connection therewith. The Order of the Red Cross being of Persian origin, the Cross is not only

"authoritative," but "proper," when construed in the Persian sense. *They* worshipped the one true God, and the Cross symbolized His attributes.

Courteously yours,

THOMAS H. CASWELL,

Recorder.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The report on correspondence is from the pen of Sir Caswell, and that is sufficient to ensure it that careful consideration which all reports of Sir Caswell so well deserve. Thirty-four jurisdictions, including Michigan for 1884, are fraternally reviewed and commented upon, occupying one hundred and twenty of the one hundred and sixty-two pages of the proceedings.

ALABAMA.

Under Alabama, while referring to the representative question, Sir Caswell says:

The system of representation has now been generally adopted throughout the United States, and in many of the grand bodies of the old world. As at present practiced, it is simply a position of honor, and is so considered. It can certainly do no harm; and instances have occurred, and other occasions may arise, where the interposition of an intelligent and conscientious representative may be of the greatest service in adjusting any little difficulty or misunderstanding which may arise between grand bodies. As the system is now almost universal, we trust the Grand Commanderies of Michigan and Virginia will reconsider their action, and fall into line with the great majority.

MICHIGAN.

Sir Caswell fraternally reviews Michigan for 1884, and, after quoting what Sir Saxton said, relative to those learned Sir Knights who think to improve our beautiful ritual by injecting pathetic rhymes and Shakesperian extracts, says:

We fully concur in the above. We have often heard our beautiful ritual marred by the introduction of quotations from Byron or Shakespeare, or some other poet, beautiful enough in themselves, but utterly out of place in that connection. We once heard a story of a man who was exhibiting through the country a panorama of scriptural scenes. At one place of some importance, he wished to produce a particularly

good effect, and, to this end, engaged an itinerant pianist, with instructions to play, as the panorama moved, some piece of music appropriate to the particular scene passing before the eyes of the audience. At first all went well; the panorama moved on, and at last the representation of Christ, raising Lazarus from the tomb, was presented to the hushed and reverent spectators; the pianist at once caught the inspiration, and struck up the familiar air of the old ballad: "Come, rise up, William Riley, and come along with me." The audience were horrified, and the man at the crank turned vigorously in order to get the scene off as soon as possible. The next scene was the representation of Christ walking on the water. After a preliminary shake of the fist at the piano man, the manager commenced to turn the crank, and as the full beauty of the scene burst upon the admiring beholders, the inspired musician let himself loose on:

"A life on the ocean wave, a home on the rolling deep.—"

This was too much; the fellow was unceremoniously bounced, and the show proceeded without further musical accompaniment. We only relate this little incident to illustrate the absurdity of introducing secular selections into a religious ritual.

"PILGRIM'S PROGRESS."

Of Past Grand Commander Chandler's revised "Pilgrim's Progress," he says:

Sir George W. Chandler, Past Grand Commander, chairman of the special committee on California trip, submitted his report, giving a very pleasant and readable account of the pilgrimage of the party under his charge, numbering one hundred and thirty ladies and gentlemen, who, as he says, "arrived well and happy; no accidents having occurred and nothing having happened to mar the pleasures of the journey." His "Revised Pilgrim's Progress," giving a detailed description of the route traveled, the principal stations, points of interest, scenery, etc., is very interesting, and, had we the space, we would gladly publish it entire.

ONLY WHEN TOO SHARP.

Sir Caswell quotes us as saying, we apologize as we go, and says we "forgot to apologize to the Grand Encampment." We only apologize when we think we have been too sharp!

MISSISSIPPI.

Under Mississippi he quotes from Sir DeLap's fierce charge on Sir Edwards, of New Jersey, and says:

We read a portion of the above remarks with profound wonder and astonishment, and were utterly at a loss to account for their bitterness and virulence. At least we came to his "conclusion," where all is explained. He *begins his end* thus:

"We have labored under the disadvantage of *chronic dyspepsia of the most horrible sort.*"

That settles it; it must have been *horrible*, indeed. We were going to give our afflicted frater a lesson in polite literature, but we forbear. Any man who has it in a form so horrible, is entitled to our pity. But, seriously, Brother De Lap, take our advice. Our hair is white with the snow of many winters, and our experience has been great. Go over into Kentucky, and put yourself upon a *regimen* of old Bourbon for a few weeks. It is the best remedy for dyspepsia we know of. It will cure cases of the most *horrible sort* (we've tried it,) and when your recovery is complete, for the Lord's sake bring a few bottles home with you to prevent a relapse. Aside from the blemishes above quoted, the report is exceptionally well written and exceedingly interesting; and here we would suggest to our esteemed frater that vituperation is not argument, and when we stray from the paths of courteous discussion, our efforts for good are neutralized and our usefulness destroyed.

WISCONSIN.

Under Wisconsin, of Sir Swain's report on correspondence, he says:

The report on correspondence, by Sir William C. Swain, is a most interesting and valuable paper. The proceedings of thirty-one grand bodies are reviewed, including those of the Grand Encampment of the United States, in masterly style, with knightly courtesy ever in view. California, for 1884, receives kindly notice and a little sharp criticism, which does not hurt us a particle. He says we had the Governor of the State to take charge of our interests during the triennial year, "and his address and the proceedings, together with the glowing accounts of her hospitality given by the many who enjoyed it, showed that they could not have been in better hands." He says he is sorry that he is unable to commend *all* its official acts, and proceeds to give him a mild castigation for allowing a Commandery to parade on Memorial Day. Go to! Sir William; pluck the beam out of your own eye before you go for the little splinter in ours. You're another. Your Grand Commander did the same thing, only more so, for he refused once, and then backed out. People "who live in glass houses"—you know the rest. Seriously, we cannot pick any crow with Sir William on this subject. We are as much opposed to parades and show as he can be, and espec-

ially on occasions that are neither Masonic nor Templar, and we do not regard Memorial Day as in any respect coming under either head. He gets another hit at Sir Knight Perkins, in the matter of dispensations to re-ballot upon the petitions of rejected candidates, and kicks over the traces at the idea of charging five dollars for such indulgences.

And concludes his review as follows:

"Thus endeth the lesson;" and gladly we lay down the pen and contemplate the field over which we have passed. There is much to excite our admiration, much that has contributed to our enjoyment, much information has been added to our stock of lore; but, alas! our heart has been saddened by the thought that many of those who have written us glad tidings in the past have laid aside both pen and sword forever; that we shall greet them no more at our annual love-feasts, and read, never again, their words of wisdom and instruction. But there is comfort in the thought so beautifully expressed in the good old hymn:

"Why do we mourn departed friends,
Or shake at death's alarms?
'Tis but the voice that Jesus sends,
To call us to his arms."

From a close inspection of the field, we come to the conclusion that the Order, taken as a whole, was never more prosperous than now. All is peace and harmony; a slight friction between Maryland and Louisiana, which we trust a little of the oil of fraternity will speedily remove; but aside from that, no note of discord jars upon general harmony throughout the world. Canada has obtained her release from an irksome allegiance, and at once blossomed into a supreme and sovereign grand body. The chief subjects of discussion in Templar circles at present are the Holy Trinity, Tactics and Drill, Observance of Holy Days, and the Grand Encampment; but as these subjects are fully treated in the body of our report, we do not propose to discuss them here; and therefore wishing health, wealth, and prosperity to all, and with bright anticipations for 1886, we say, *Au revoir sans adieu.*

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir PHILIP WALTER KEYSER, Marysville, elected Grand Commander.

Sir THOMAS HUBBARD CASWELL, San Francisco, re-elected Grand Recorder.

CANADA.

THE second annual assembly of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada was held in the city of Hamilton, commencing July 7, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir Knight JAMES A. HENDERSON, Deputy Grand Master, presiding.

Sir Knight DANIEL SPY, Grand Chancellor.

Twenty-three subordinate Preceptorries represented.

GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS.

In the absence of the Grand Master the deputy read his address. Grand Master Moore pays a fitting and glorious tribute to the memory of Sir George Canning Longley, and says of him:

In his extensive correspondence on Masonic matters, he was at all times clear, courteous, and to the point, but caustic and cutting in the extreme, when he felt called upon to administer the lash of disapproval. Our esteemed and lamented brother was essentially a "Masonic student," a seeker after truth, desiring always the fullest light upon all questions, preferring to see things as they are, not as a vain or fond imagination would fain suppose them to be. He delighted in sharing his store of learning, and took a generous pleasure in the exaltation of his friends to the honor and distinction of offices in Masonry, albeit he himself neither coveted or aspired to aught but the distinction of being thoroughly versed in the deepest mysteries of Masonic lore, and that could not be withheld, even by those whose imperfect intercourse with our lost friend and fellow worker denied them the privilege of his friendship. I could enlarge on this theme, having known and loved him well, but if "Many waters cannot quench love, neither can many words conquer grief."

DECISIONS.

We give in full the several rulings of the Grand Master during the year:

1. The question which has arisen of residents in Canada going to

the United States temporarily, and there, without our permission, receiving the degrees; I have ruled, that on their return to Canada, they are *not* entitled to become *members* of any Preceptory within *this* jurisdiction, but must petition and be received in the same manner as any Royal Arch Companion unacquainted with the Orders, paying the accustomed fees of admission. This is necessary to preserve the *distinctive* features of *our* system, and prevent members being admitted who might be objectionable in the places where they reside and are best known.

2. A resident of Canada who has thus been admitted into the Order of the United States, may be received as a *visitor*, subject to the "by-laws" of the Preceptory visited, but *cannot* be affiliated as a joining member.

3. Members of the Order in good standing, properly certified from foreign jurisdictions, are at all times eligible to be received as visitors, and to be affiliated on subscribing to the usual test of the Trinity and to the regulations of Great Priory.

4. An Eminent Commander from the United States, joining a Preceptory in Canada, cannot be returned as a "Preceptor" entitled to a seat in Great Priory, and can only obtain rank as such in this jurisdiction by being installed as a Preceptor in a Preceptory on the roll of Great Priory, and must have served a full term of twelve months to retain his seat at Great Priory.

5. A Canadian member of the Order, not affiliated in any Preceptory of the jurisdiction, can only be admitted once in twelve months as a visitor to meetings of Preceptories.

6. All regular Royal Arch Masons from foreign jurisdictions, properly recommended, are eligible to be received as candidates for the Templar degrees in this jurisdiction.

7. It is not necessary that members of the Order be subscribing members to either Craft Lodge or Royal Arch Chapter, and suspension for non-payment of dues in a Craft Lodge or Royal Arch Chapter, does not affect the member's standing in the Preceptory.

8. Suspension in a Craft Lodge or Royal Arch Chapter of a Templar, should be carefully enquired into and acted upon accordingly. No Templar whose moral character and integrity has been impugned, and proved against him, is, or can be, a fitting associate in any Preceptory, and he should no longer be permitted to remain as a member, but "cast out from amongst us as having proved false and unfaithful to his vows."

9. I have been asked to decide which is the most correct term to address a member of the Order, "Sir Knight," "Brother" or "Frater."

I have long held that we have no right to the title of *Knight*, a rank in civil life which the "Crown" only can confer. "Brother" or "Frater" is the correct term, the latter being the same word in Latin, commonly used in mediæval times in the religious and military orders, but does not, nor is it intended, to convey any connection with the Roman Catholic Priesthood. To my mind, where Masonry is concerned, the term "Knight" is ridiculous, and what appellation can be more appropriate, or better express the Christian character of modern Templary, than the endearing word, "Brother," or "Frater."

10. *Fratres*, suspended for non-payment of dues, are *not* required to refund subscriptions accrued between their suspension and reinstatement.

MILITARY DRILL, ETC.

Grand Master Moore does not agree with the American idea pertaining to military drill, processions, etc., and while referring to these matters, says:

I cannot understand on what grounds military drills, etc., can be introduced into our *Speculative* Templar system, for, although continuing and preserving the name "Religious and Military," from the Ancient Orders of the Crusades, it has no more to do with a *military* organization, than *Speculative* Masonry has with *Operative*, and however harmless it may be in itself, has, unfortunately, become the chief attraction, to the prejudice of the true object and interests of the Order, which surely does not require to be brought into notoriety by its members becoming amateur soldiers, any more than Masonic periodicals are enhanced by extraneous sensational tales and anecdotes to make them saleable; unless, indeed, it is considered necessary to follow the example of those fanatical societies, like the "salvation" and "saved" army corps, who, by their mimicry of military customs, parades and uniform, court popularity to recruit their ranks; but which, more frequently, entail public contempt, by appearing and conducting themselves, as that old satirist, Dean Swift, expresses it: "More like mountebanks than Christian men."

I do not, by these remarks, intend to throw ridicule upon *any* society, who, from disinterested, philanthropic motives endeavor, from *any* and *every* source, to elevate and direct the mind to higher and purer thoughts and line of conduct. "The truth may enter the heart by more ways than one, and their—intellect and sentiment—are neither to be divided from the other." And certainly, no man—no method—is common or unclean that leads to the truth.

My own convictions are entirely opposed to outside show, gather-

ings and processions, as grave innovations on the established order of things, tending, as they do, to overshadow the true principles upon which English Templary is founded. At the same time, I am delighted to find a move has been made in the right direction, by holding conversazioni and social reunions, where it is but natural the younger members should wish to appear in a becoming costume, suitable to their position and the usages of the time, and as representatives of an ancient and important association, wear a more distinctive dress than the usual one of a civilian.

I think it right to notice that some of the Masonic periodicals of the United States are congratulating themselves that the Preceptories in Canada have adopted the American Templars' uniform, to the exclusion of our true Templar costume, the white mantle and tunic. This, I am happy to say, is not the case. A few members—whose sole object in joining the Order, it would appear, was from motives of amusement and display, have done so, on sufferance and by permission of Great Priory as an *out-door* dress; (the wearing of the mantle and tunic being confined to the chapter-room, unless by special permission;) but the majority still adhere closely to the regulation costume and badges, which have *not* been repealed by Great Priory; and it is to be hoped *never will*, and certainly *not* in my day as Supreme Grand Master—the *investiture* of the *white* mantle and surcoat, or tunic, forming a leading feature of our ritualistic ceremonial, which *cannot* be dispensed with.

However appropriate the American Templar uniform may be in their system and amongst themselves, it is looked upon with anything but favor in Her Majesty's dominions. The members when appearing in their quaint head-dress and over-loaded gilt trappings, look more like some festive holiday society, bent on exhibiting themselves for the admiration of the public, than staid Soldiers of the Cross. Besides, all these mock military parades and uniform, are quite unfitted for members who have arrived at maturer years, entailing an extravagant and wasteful expenditure, which could be far better employed carrying out the beneficent teachings of the Order.

No member can be obliged to provide himself with an "*out-door*" costume; nor to wear one unless it be his own wish.

CLOSING.

Without apology, we give his conclusion in full:

Fratres, I have thus endeavored to lay before you, what, after years of careful investigation, appears to me to be the true meaning and intention of our English Templar System, and the object of its teach-

ings, but must claim your indulgence if I have expressed myself too freely and strongly. My motives have been actuated by the *one* desire, that of preserving intact the principles of Templary as transmitted to us from the mother country.

I do not for a moment impugn or call into question the religious feelings and principles of the members of the Order, but to warn them against attempts which we daily see made to undermine the principles and teachings of true Templary—for is it not sad to notice the inroads infidelity is making amongst all classes of society, and the skeptical arguments introduced into the Masonic body? “The skeptic scoffs at religion, vainly imagining that man does not want a Savior, or what is called religion—his creed is: all that is required, is to do what is right; and he believes that every man could do so if he chose. He might despise the man who was idle, drunken, and immoral, but he also despises the man who calls himself religious.” Such are the errors and views of the age we live in, and from which we as Templars have to guard against.

I delight in the vigorous, all-sufficient creed of the true Templar. If a man is capable of understanding and appreciating the exhortation in our ritual: “*Put on the whole armor of God*,” then indeed he has found peace and rest in the Christian Templar Order; if, on the other hand, he feels that he has been permitted to stand on ground too *sacred* for him—if he is disappointed in not finding the Order a bauble—a fast time—a matter of course—then he turns away, leaving his armor to rust, and after the first solemn impressions are effaced, no longer thinks of the vows he has sealed at the altar. May not *this* be mainly owing to the light and careless manner in which, I fear, too frequently, the ceremonies are conducted by Preceptors who are themselves often ignorant of the true meaning and proper method of communicating them?

Fratres, I speak and feel thus warmly in my anxiety for the future welfare and prosperity of the Order in Canada, which I have for a life-time assisted to build up.

My failing health and increasing years admonish me, and I cannot shut my eyes and dismiss from my mind the consciousness that ere long I shall not be here, and therefore the feeling is constantly with me: “*That what my hands find to do, I must do it with all my might*”; ever remembering: “*That truth is a giant—she is divine—and all the armies arraigned against her will surely be brought to shame*.”

Another year may find my place vacant in your ranks, and it be no longer permitted me to address you; let me then implore you to guard

well the "sacred landmarks" of the Order against all innovation, and all attempts to change or modify its doctrinal teaching.

I now wish to express to you the gratification and pleasure I have always felt at our reunions, and my warmest acknowledgments for the sympathy shown me in hours of affliction, and the many kindnesses I have received at the hands of my brother Templars. "It leaves a bright halo in the memory that is enduring." My life, like all the rest of the human family, has been full of changes and many vicissitudes, which I have been mercifully spared and strengthened to bear up against beyond the allotted term of man's existence, and have ever striven to follow the family motto I inherit:

"Fortis cadere, cedere non potest."

GRAND REPRESENTATIVE.

The committee on Grand Master's address, referring to his action on grand representative, say:

The Council fully endorse the appointment by the Supreme Grand Master of R. E. Frater Theodore S. Parvin, of Iowa, as the Representative of this Sovereign Great Priory, near the Grand Encampment of the United States of America, and they recommend the Sovereign Great Priory not only to confirm the appointment, but also to approve of the rank of Honorary Deputy Grand Master conferred on R. E. Frater Parvin by the Supreme Grand Master. The liveliest recollection is retained of the services rendered by Frater Parvin at the inauguration of the independence of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada. The Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States, having conferred on our worthy R. E. Frater James A. Henderson, Deputy Grand Master, the position of Representative near the Sovereign Great Priory, with the rank of Deputy Grand Master, Great Priory accepts the appointment as a high compliment to Frater Henderson, and the Templary of Canada. This Council feel assured that the interests of the Grand Encampment will be well and ably represented.

Sir Knight James A. Henderson, Deputy Grand Master, presented his credentials as representative of the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar, of the United States, and was received and saluted with the grand honors.

RESOLUTION.

The following resolution, offered by Sir Knight David McLellan, was adopted:

Resolved, That the Deputy Grand Master be empowered to procure

and present to R. E. Sir Knight T. S. Parvin a suitable jewel, as our Representative near the Grand Encampment of the United States.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir Knight W. J. B. MACLEOD MOORE, Prescott, Ontario, Supreme Grand Master.

Sir Knight DANIEL SPRY, Barrie, Ontario, Grand Chancellor.

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COLORADO.

THE tenth annual conclave was held at Denver, commencing September 18, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir JAMES P. MAXWELL, Grand Commander.

Sir ED. C. PARMELEE, Grand Recorder.

Twelve subordinate Commanderies represented. Seven Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander thus speaks to the Sir Knights of his jurisdiction in the opening of his address:

It is with much humiliation that I am compelled to offer the Grand Commandery of Colorado an apology in lieu of the address rightfully expected on such an occasion as the grand conclave. But necessity knows no law, and the Bear River country over the range knows no Grand Commandery.

An intentional absence of thirty days in the western part of the state was prolonged through the discordant action of the elements, bad roads and broken vehicles, until but one day intervened between my arrival home and the meeting of the Grand Commandery, thus leaving barely time to report myself present, with a meagre account of the year's work.

Our progressive young state records barely ten years of state history, yet it now witnesses the tenth annual conclave of this Grand Commandery, and we have reason to believe that the increase of membership in our Order has been proportionate to the rapid growth of our infant commonwealth.

The membership of 548 one year ago, has been increased to 650, as is evidenced by the returns of the Grand Recorder, showing that more than 100 of the tried and trusty have been added to our list.

DISPENSATION.

A dispensation was granted for the opening of a new Commandery at Fort Collins.

DECISION.

The following decision was made by the Grand Commander and approved by the committee on jurisprudence:

A Commandery in this jurisdiction met in regular conclave, at which time a companion was duly elected to take the Orders. The Commandery was then closed, and a Council of the Knights of the Red Cross opened for the purpose of conferring the Order. The usual statement was then made, viz: "If there be no objection we shall proceed to confer the Order of the Red Cross upon the companion elected." No objections appearing, the work proceeded without interruption until sometime after the return from the banquet hall, when positive objections were made to the further progress of the work. The Eminent Commander thereupon refused to complete the conferring of the Order, pending the decision of the Grand Commander.

Ruling—Section 29 of the code of statutes of the Grand Encampment gives any member in good standing the right to object to the conferring of the Order, and such objection acts as a complete bar. The question arising in this case was whether a member could interpose an objection in the midst of the ceremony for reasons that existed prior to the initial steps. I held that the words "conferring the order," had reference to the ceremony as a whole, and not to the mere act of creating; that it was impracticable to separate any essential part of the ceremony from the rest, and make the conferring depend upon that part alone, and that the creating was the culminating act of the ceremony, but was no more essential than the obligation which was the first.

The companion had practically received the Order, having taken the obligation, been invested with the pass, assumed the character of Zerubabel and participated in the banquet, and only lacked the formal act of receiving and constituting. I gave instruction that the ceremony be completed at the earliest convenience of the Commandery.

STANDING ORDER.

The following standing order was adopted by the Grand Commandery:

A rejected candidate shall not be entitled to any other information, save that he is rejected; and any Sir Knight who shall communicate to him any information as to who was present, or who advocated or opposed his admission, shall be subject to charges, and upon conviction, expelled from the Order. It is hereby declared to be the duty of the Eminent Commander or Recorder of each Commandery subordinate to this Grand Commandery, to publish this statute to his Commandery whenever a petition for the orders shall be voted upon by his Commandery.

TIME OF MEETING.

The time of meeting of next conclave was fixed at a date so as not to interfere with the time of meeting of the Grand Encampment.

RESOLUTION.

The following resolution, offered by Sir William D. Todd, was adopted:

Resolved, That the advice of Grand Commander Maxwell, in his address, upon the impropriety of establishing new Commanderies, unless sufficiently far removed from old Commanderies as not to interfere with their efficiency, receives the hearty endorsement of this Grand Commandery.

Good resolution, but only made to be broken; too much pressure and too many "good fellows" at grand conclaves, knock that theory to pieces, sooner or later; at least that is the experience in our jurisdiction, as well as others.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir Knight Orahood runs with lightning pen through the transactions of thirty-two grand jurisdictions, and in thirty-two pages says his say, and which say, in our opinion, has much to commend. He is a *hustler* from *hustletown*.

MICHIGAN.

Michigan receives her full share of the time and space allotted to the report. He says of Sir Moore's address, after quoting the following therefrom:

"No dispensations have been asked the past year for the establishment of new Commanderies. I presume such action has been postponed during recess by those interested, awaiting the meeting of the Grand Commandery."

In our opinion no Grand Commandery, during its short session and multitude of business, can devote the time and attention and make the investigation necessary to properly decide whether or not a dispensation should be granted. This should be done by the Grand Commander only. He is then personally responsible, and he can properly investigate and pass upon such applications. And, further, no Commandery should be chartered until it has worked under dispensation and conferred the Orders, and made proper report to the Grand Commandery. The report should be thoroughly examined, and approved by the proper committee. We know this is wise counsel; we learned it by experience. We are led to these remarks, too, by noticing that a charter was granted for a new Commandery, and that the recommendation therefor:

"Gave rise to a most earneet, forcible and interesting discussion of the entire report of the committee, which was participated in with much earnestness."

The representatives of the nearest Commandery:

"Gave notice that said Commandery felt aggrieved at the action of the Grand Commandery in granting a charter for a new Commandery at Charlotte, and that they would appeal to the Grand Encampment of the United States against the action now taken."

CLOSING.

He closes as follows:

The past year has been peculiarly quiet in the Masonic world, as elsewhere.

About the only feeling manifested, has been the expression of dissatisfaction with the Grand Encampment by some individuals, by one or more committees and by some Grand Commanders and Reporters on correspondence. These complaints undoubtedly have some foundation in fact; yet as we have said in substance in commenting on some of them, we think them more fancied than real. So long as the charge against the Grand Encampment is for *omission* and not *commission*, we are inclined to withhold criticism. As we have heretofore said, we are of those who fear too much government, rather than too little.

The ritual has received some attention in several jurisdictions. Tactics and drill and uniform, as usual, occupy considerable attention.

Very few decisions are reported by Grand Commanders. Very few unsettled questions remain for discussion or decision.

Everywhere within our lines, and on our borders, peace and harmony prevail—blessings, surely, sufficient to call forth to the utmost our thankfulness and prayers for their continuance.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir HORACE N. BANKS, South Pueblo, elected Grand Commander.

Sir ED. C. PARMELEE, Georgetown, re-elected Grand Recorder.

DAKOTA.

THE second annual conclave was held at Yankton, commencing June 16, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir SAMUEL ROY, Grand Commander.

Sir BRUCE M. ROWLEY, *as* Grand Recorder.

Six subordinate Commanderies represented.

A WIDE DEPARTURE.

We note what to us seems a wide departure from good Templar law, that the presiding grand officers are all represented by proxy. We venture to say that Dakota is alone on this subject, and we courteously advise our young sister to make a new departure in this direction. It is all wrong. We think it is a magnanimous Grand Commandery that gives its grand officers one vote. This voting "often and early" is not the best thing for Templar Masonry.

DECISIONS.

The following decisions were made by the Grand Commander during the year, and approved:

On May 20th, 1885, I received a complaint made by a member of Cyrene Commandery No. 2, against the Eminent Commander of said Cyrene Commandery for conferring the order of Knights Templar, Knights of Malta, or Order of St. John, upon a Red Cross Knight after his advancement had been objected to by several members of said Cyrene Commandery, complainant claiming that the Eminent Commander had no right to confer said orders. It appears from the records that the Order of the Red Cross was conferred on November 9,

1888, at which time the objection was made, and the Orders of the Temple and Malta were not conferred until April 29, 1885. Thus eighteen months had elapsed.

I decided that he had the right to confer the Orders, as an objection to the advancement of a Red Cross Knight holds good for six months, and no longer.

On the same date I received a communication from the Recorder of La-co-Tah Commandery No. 6, asking my opinion upon a matter of jurisdiction between La co-Tah No. 6, and Watertown Commandery U. D. It appears that a certain brother made application to the Chapter at Huron for said degrees and was rejected. He afterwards moved to Watertown and made application to the Chapter at Watertown; was elected and the degrees conferred. He afterwards petitioned Watertown Commandery U. D., for the Orders of Knighthood.

La-co-Tah Commandery No. 6, claimed the right to object to his petition being received by Watertown Commandery, upon the ground that he received his Chapter degrees illegally.

I decided that La-co-Tah Commandery No. 6, had no jurisdiction whatever in the case; that if there was a breach of Masonic Law, it was upon the part of the Chapter, and the Companion was in no way responsible, and therefore was eligible for the Orders of Knighthood, after residing a sufficient time in the jurisdiction of Watertown Commandery.

RESOLUTION.

The following resolution, offered by Sir Knight George H. Hand, was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Grand Commandery that before any dispensation shall be issued for a new Commandery the Sir Knights nominated in the application for the dispensation, shall appear before the nearest chartered Commandery, and exemplify the work.

And if such work is satisfactory to said Commandery, it shall recommend the application for the dispensation; and whenever a dispensation is issued for a Commandery, the Grand Recorder shall immediately furnish the Eminent Commander of such Commandery all necessary papers, blanks, and documents for its government.

Also the following, by Sir Knight W. D. Stiles:

Voted, That Edwin E. Sage, Past Grand Recorder, be made an honorary member of this Grand Commandery.

In this connection we congratulate the Grand Commandery in its choice of Sir Rowley as the successor of Sir Knight

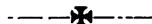
Sage. Sir Knight Rowley is from our own Michigan. He is kind, courteous and affable, highly respected by those who best know him, and we think that in honoring Sir Rowley, Dakota honored herself. Welcome, Sir Rowley, to the noble, self-sacrificing army of grand recorders.

CORRESPONDENCE.

No report on correspondence.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir LEVI B. FRENCH, Yankton, elected Grand Commander.
Sir BRUCE M. ROWLEY, Huron, elected Grand Recorder.



ENGLAND AND WALES.

THE National Great Priory and Military Orders of the Temple, and of St. Johns of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta, in England and Wales and the Dependencies thereof, was held at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon street, London, on Friday, the eighth day of May, A. L. 5885, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767, at four o'clock.

PRESENT.

The Very Eminent Great Sub-Prior and Provincial Prior of Sussex, Colonel SHADWELL H. CLERKE, on the Throne.

Sir Knight W. TINKLER, K. C. T., Vice-Chancellor.

The Knights having formed the Arch of Steel, the Great Sub-Prior, preceded by the National Great Officers, and Officers, and Past Grand Officers, entered in procession, under the direction of the Very Eminent Sir Knight, J. Lambert Sim, K. C. T., Past Great Marshal and Past Provincial Prior of Ceylon.

The Great Sub-Prior having taken his seat upon the Throne, opened the National Great Priory in ample form.

The Great Sub-Prior said he was desired by the Great Prior, the Earl of Lathom, to express his lordship's regret that he was unavoidably prevented from attending that meeting of the Great Priory, as he was out for the annual training with the Regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry, of which his lordship was the Colonel. And he was especially requested to explain that that body, being, unfortunately, always out for training at this time of the year, was the cause of the Great Prior being so frequently absent from the meetings of the Great Priory.

The Great Sub-Prior then said that he thought the Great Priory had now another duty to perform, and that it ought not to let the event of Sir Knight Goolden's retirement from the office of Treasurer pass without some expression of the obligation of the Order to him for his valuable services, during, he believed, some twenty-five years.

The office of Treasurer was one that involved duties and responsibilities, and he, the Great Sub-Prior, knew from personal knowledge, the time and attention that Sir Knight Goolden had devoted to the affairs of the Order. The least Great Priory could do, he thought, would be to pass a vote which he begged to propose, thanking Sir Knight Goolden for the eminent services he had rendered to the Order as Treasurer for so many years.

The Almoner collected the Alms, which amounted to £2, 17s, 6d.

The Great Sub-Prior then closed the Great Priory in ample form, and retired with the Great Officers, and Officers, and Past Grand Officers under the Arch of Steel.

OFFICERS.

The Right Honorable THE EARL OF LATHOM, G. C. T., Etc., Etc., Great Prior.

W. TINKLER, 22 Chancery Lane, London, W. C. Vice-Chancellor.

GEORGIA.

THE twenty-fourth annual conclave was held in the city of Macon commencing May 20, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir WILLIAM B. YOUNG, Grand Commander.

Sir SAMUEL P. HAMILTON, Grand Recorder.

Seven subordinate Commanderies represented. Three Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

In opening his address, the R. E. Grand Commander alludes, in the following feeling manner, to the death of Past Grand Commander Wm. D. Luckie:

Since our last conclave we have again been forcibly reminded that "we were born to die." Our beloved frater, Past Grand Commander William D. Luckie, has been removed from our midst. After much sorrow and suffering, his

"Wearied spirit weeps no more"

For weeks his devoted family and friends hovered over him, hoping he might be spared to them, but their devotion and prayers availed not.

"The light of the eye, and the breathing of the lips, in their language of fraternal greeting, have ceased for us forever on this side of the grave."

His life was pure and noble. As a citizen he was esteemed and trusted. As a Mason he was true, fearless, devoted and honored.

In him were blended in beautiful harmony, modesty, gentleness and firmness. Ever courteous and considerate, it can be truthfully said of him, that the teachings and spirit of our Order were beautifully exemplified in his life and death. I know that you are in full sympathy with me in my desire to do his memory justice. The high place he occupied in your confidence you evinced by giving him the highest honors in your power to bestow, and the presence of so many of you to

"Softly, sadly bear him forth
To his dark and silent bed,"

gave unmistakable proof of your esteem and love.

CLOSING.

He reports no inquiries requiring official decision the past year, and concludes his address as follows:

Our Commanderies will not reach a high standard of proficiency in the work without a reasonably regular attendance of the officers and Sir Knights, and uniformity in asylum tactics and drill. The opening and closing ceremonies should not be neglected. For a number of years past the Grand Commanders of this jurisdiction have presented prizes to the best drilled Commanderies. As I understand it, this has not been done for the purpose of public display—the principal object has been to induce the Commanderies to drill more, and in this way make the work more acceptable and impressive. "The best drilled Commanderies are the best working Commanderies."

The Sir Knights of subordinate Commanderies should not forget that the continued prosperity of the Order depends upon the officers they elect. If they put men at the head of their Commanderies who seek the office solely for public display, or men unfitted from any cause, we may not hope for a prosperous future for the Order. Select your officers for their fitness; be sure that they can discharge all the duties in a creditable manner. Select men of "strong minds, great hearts, true faith and steady hands."

I desire to acknowledge my obligations to the Grand Recorder for his promptness and the thorough performance of all the onerous duties of his office, and to thank him for many courtesies.

I also thank the Commanderies and Sir Knights for invitations, which I greatly regret it was out of my power to accept.

Appreciating the importance of the trust confided to me, I have tried to perform the duties faithfully to the Order, to foster its growth, keep out abuses, and add to its prosperity; and now, in surrendering that trust, I make my most grateful thanks for all your kindness and confidence. May we live up to the teachings, and strive to promote the best interests of the cause in which we are enlisted.

BUSINESS.

Business local in its character.

The "New York communication" was referred to a special committee.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir Knight Roland B. Hall submitted the report on correspondence. It is his second attempt as writer of the

report, and is entitled to rank with many written by those of us who commenced long before he did. He faithfully and courteously reviews the transactions of thirty-three Grand Commanderies, Michigan for 1884 among the number.

CALIFORNIA.

In his review of California, when referring to parades and displays, he says:

The Sir Knights of this jurisdiction are fond of parade and display, if the number of applications for dispensations for this purpose serve as a criterion. While a dispensation was readily granted a Commandery to parade with the Grand Army of the Republic to decorate the graves of deceased soldiers, "*some of whom may have been Knights Templar*," the Grand Commander felt called upon to *draw the line somewhere*, and peremptorily refused to allow a Commandery to march in a fourth of July celebration. (Italics ours.) He favors the forming of drill corps in all the Commanderies, and to that end granted dispensations to several to practice upon the streets in fatigue uniform.

IOWA.

Under Iowa he says:

Georgia is not neglected; neither is her humble correspondent. We lift our chapeau in acknowledgment of Sir Guilbert's kind and encouraging criticism. Still we have to differ with this distinguished frater when he concludes, "that correspondence papers are the major part of all the annuals." They may be, and really are, in matter; but not in interest to the average Templar. As before stated, we construe our duty to be the presenting of a resume of the *doings* of other Grand Commanderies; not to the *sayings* of correspondents. While the perusal of their correspondence is a source of great pleasure and no little profit, yet it is simply the opinion of one man unendorsed by any one else. As such we do not feel it our duty to present them for those to whom we labor, i. e. the members of the Grand Commandery of Georgia. With this explanation, we trust that our fraters of the quill will not consider our "*curt reference*" to their titles an indication of neglect, lack of courtesy, or appreciation.

PENNSYLVANIA.

On Pennsylvania's position to Grand Encampment, Sir Knight Hill, after quoting the resolution offered on the subject, says:

It does seem that there has been enough of this tirade against the "uselessness" of the Grand Encampment. These Eminent Sirs seem to forget their O. B. Who constitutes the Grand Encampment? Are they not a part of it and equally responsible for its uselessness? Was not this frater present at San Francisco? Why did he not there lift his voice in denunciation of this Grand Body? If all the disaffected Sir Knights who have denounced the Grand Encampment as useless would attend the next conclave, they are *numerically* strong enough to make it *useful*. Out upon such nonsense. Thus it is with poor, weak human nature. With a substantial beam in our own, we can always discover a small mote in the eye of our brother. To the rescue, Sir Knights. Substitute duty for denunciation; take affairs in your own hands and reform abuses which you claim exist.

Strong language and not borne out by facts. Attend these meetings yourself and you will see how the whole "fifth wheel" turns, and in whose interest it grinds.

CONCLUSION.

He concludes his report as follows:

Our labors as correspondent have been completed—the work is before you. We have endeavored conscientiously to discharge our duty.

Before closing, we beg permission to offer a slight tribute to the memory of one of our committee, who has been called to a higher sphere of usefulness. In the death of Right Eminent Sir W. D. Luckie, the Order loses one of its brightest ornaments, and the writer is deprived of a valued and devoted friend. The highest honors of our fraternity were his, and right worthily did he wear them. It is, indeed, painful to record the death and mourn the absence of such a man from our midst. We shall sadly miss the magnetism of his welcome presence. But I will leave it to abler pens than mine to fittingly record his virtues and his worth.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir THOMAS BALLANTYNE, Savannah, elected Grand Commander.

Sir SAMUEL P. HAMILTON, Savannah, re-elected Grand Recorder.

ILLINOIS.

THE twenty-ninth annual conclave was held in the city of Chicago, commencing October 27, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir HASWELL CORDIS CLARKE, Grand Commander.

Sir GILBERT WORDSWORTH BARNARD, Grand Recorder.

Fifty-seven subordinate Commanderies represented. Sixteen Past Grand Commanders present.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

Sir Knight Hugh McCurdy, V. E. Grand Captain General, and representative of the M. E. Grand Master; Sir Knight Theodore S. Parvin, V. E. Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of the United States, and R. E. Sir Henry G. Thayer, P. G. C. of the Grand Commandery of Indiana, were announced in waiting. The Grand Commander designated R. E. Sirs Theodore T. Gurney and Henry Turner to introduce the distinguished visitors. An escort was formed, and the visitors were formally introduced, and were received and made welcome by Grand Commander Clarke.

Without a word of apology to Michigan Knights, we give in full Sir Hugh's (our Hugh's) remarks; they do honor to his head and his heart:

Right Eminent Sir, and Sir Knights :

Again I am pleased to greet you with words of good cheer, and hearty congratulations from our Grand Master. From him, I come to assure you that he is proud of this Grand Commandery, as well as of all his daughters, who as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace, beautify and adorn our grand temple.

Of you, it can be truthfully said, although many daughters have done virtuously, yet though excellest them all. This high position of honor and influence is the result of no mere accident, but of untiring devotion on your part, to the ennobling principles of our Order.

All around me, I see evidences of marvelous progress since my last visit here. Evidences that your citizens believe that progress is the law of being, and the aim of creation. It is this spirit of progress and indomitable perseverance that has made this great state, and your beautiful city, the marvel of the world in wealth, culture, and in enterprise. It is this belief, this spirit of progress and enterprise, which have in so brief a time made glad your waste places and caused your deserts to blossom as a rose. It was this belief and spirit of growth that touched the dying embers of your burned city with life, and by this magic touch caused to leap from a city's ashes, temples, homes and marts of trade, rivalling in splendor, luxury, and magnificence, the world renowned architecture of Greece in her golden age.

One of the best works of Michael Angelo, is the monument of Henri de Chabot, the faithful friend of Conde. The face of Chabot, like his reputation, has every beauty, but its mournful criticism is, that it is the beauty of the dying. This was the ambition of that age, itself a dying age; but this is a living age—an age which demands the beauty that lives. The works of art demanded to-day are those in which postures, gestures, looks and everything has life. To-day the secret of living expression is the secret of art. In living expression the arts find their true measure of value. So, here, wherever thought breathes as in your words of Knightly welcome, wherever art lives, it represents not mere expression or existence, but it represents aspirations for the highest and noblest type of being.

That you manifest such aspirations for the noblest and best, not only in all your business and educational enterprises, but also in Knight Templarism, let not your peerless system of education, your luxurious homes, beautiful temples and your magnificent marts of trade alone testify; but also let this be evidenced by the brilliant galaxy of names, and record of deeds, adorning the roster and gracing the history of this Grand Commandery.

As your financial success, and wonderful growth in all departments of your ambition, have been the result only of persistent effort and invincible courage, so likewise your steady advancement towards the highest ideal of Templarism, has been due to the fact, that, in each of you, as in every true man and Sir Knight, the instinct of perfection lives and glows, as an abiding inspiration to higher purposes and nobler deeds. You are satisfied with no achievement of the past, no glory of ancestry fills up the measure of your ambition. Each one of you demands for himself, for his acts, for his thoughts, a place in this great work of a Templar's life, not only to be in harmony with the progress of the age, but to be a leader of men in all that is good and true. In

behalf of the Grand Master, then, I congratulate you upon every evidence of growth and advancement in the broad and ever widening field of Templarism.

That you have increased in numbers, is, or may be a cause for congratulation, but never forget, that this is by no means the best evidence of growth. All true growth is from within. Increase in membership must never be regarded as anything more than outward growth. Such increase may evidence simply the influence your symbols have upon men. However, the great work of Templarism is not to influence a growth of membership. We may grow too rapidly. The true work of Templarism is to influence individual growth and development. The highest success of a Commandery should be measured only by its influence upon its members. Your best work is in influencing yourselves to be living examples of what your symbols express and teach.

That I find here evidence of such growth is indeed cause for the warmest congratulations, which I convey to you, with all the fervor and enthusiasm of Templarism, of which even our best words and works are but a symbol. I congratulate you, and bid you God speed in your untiring efforts to attain highest excellence, not only in every art, but likewise in all the true graces of manhood, of which Knighthood with all its symbolism can never be more than a symbol.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander in his address says:

Standing on the threshold of another year and reviewing the past one, I can see where, as the executive head of this Grand Commandery, I have failed to do many acts which should have been done by me, to render me worthy to have occupied so exalted a position. In the matter of visitations I have been particularly remiss, but my private business this last year has been of so engaging a character that I have been obliged to avail myself very little of the many courteous invitations I have received. Where I have visited I have been received with all the honors due to the Grand Commander. What could be done by correspondence, I have done to the best of my ability. I have been much aided in the performance of my duties by our E. Grand Recorder, and have always found the committee on Templar jurisprudence ready to give me good advice when consulted. My acts officially I will proceed to lay before you. The reports of the several grand officers will be laid before the proper committee, and reported upon by it. Their reports, I regret to say, show that many Commanderies in the several districts have failed to call upon them for inspection; and also that the amount of work done the past year by many Commanderies has been compara-

tively small. There is this to be borne in mind, however, that a small number of valiant and true Knights created, is much better for the true prosperity of our noble Order than a larger number possessing inferior qualifications; and the more rigid the scrutiny exercised at our outer door, the better for the Order. I think, however, that the increase in number for the past year has been as great as in other grand jurisdictions. With the bountiful crops being gathered, and the general improvement in business, the prospects for the coming year are flattering. For all the mercies vouchsafed to us the past year, let us return our sincere thanks to "Him from whom all blessings flow."

DECISIONS.

The Grand Commander submits the following decisions made during the year, which were approved by the committee on jurisprudence:

In answer to the question, "A companion residing in Chicago wishes to petition for the Orders to a Commandery outside of the city limits. From what Commandery in the city must a waiver of jurisdiction be obtained?" My reply and decision was in the words of the committee on Templar jurisprudence:

"In any town or city where more than one Commandery is stationed, all having concurrent jurisdiction, the request for a waiver of jurisdiction must be made to *every* Commandery in that town or city; and the party applying for such waiver (which should be the Commandery petitioned) must notify each and every body that such application has been made to all the others; and unanimous consent is absolutely necessary to entertain such petition."

I also made the following decision:

"No dispensation to ballot at a *special* conclave (even if the four weeks have elapsed since the reception of the petition and its reference to a committee) can be granted, except upon the payment of the fee—five dollars for each name inserted." In other words: "To fulfill 'the constitutional requirements as to time,' both the four weeks must have elapsed (since the reception of the petition and its reference to a committee) and a *stated* conclave have arrived at or subsequent to such expiration of time."

The address of the Grand Commander is a full digest of his doings during the year and shows much labor performed.

GRIEVANCES.

The following report from the committee on grievances, and the recommendations thereon, were adopted:

Only one complaint has been brought to the attention of your committee; it is that of Sir Emory Gregg, of St. Paul Commandery, No. 34, stationed at Fairbury. The records of this Commandery, and other evidences, disclose the fact that Sir Knight Gregg was brought to trial on June 1, 1885, on the charge of non-payment of dues. The accused did not appear. Counsel was appointed by the Eminent Commander in his behalf. After a hearing in the case, the accused was, by vote of the Commandery, by ballot, declared guilty of non-payment of dues. The penalty fixed by the Commandery, (also by ballot) for the offense, was in the words following: "Indefinite suspension for non-payment of dues, until his dues are paid." The phrase "indefinite suspension" seems to be inconsistent with the phrase "until his dues are paid."

A fair consideration of the entire sentence, taken in connection with all other circumstances of the case, leads your committee unanimously to the conclusion that the true intent of the action of the Commandery was simply to suspend the accused only and until his dues were paid, and that the payment of his dues would restore him without further action of the Commandery.

At a regular conclave of the Commandery, held September 7, 1885, a motion was made that the dues of the accused be remitted, except the Grand Commandery dues; whereupon the Eminent Commander declared the motion out of order, and refused to entertain the same.

Your committee believe this to be error on the part of the Eminent Commander.

On the 21st day of September, 1885, the accused paid up his dues in full, as appears from a certified copy of the receipt of the Recorder therefor. These dues were paid prior to the annual report of the Recorder, for the current year, and yet under the instructions of the Eminent Commander, the accused stands reported to the Grand Commandery as a suspended member, notwithstanding his request to be re-instated and properly reported to the Grand Commandery.

Your committee therefore report:

1. That the intent of the sentence upon the accused is suspension for non-payment of dues until dues are paid.
2. That the moment the dues of Sir Knight Emory Gregg were paid, the ban of suspension was removed, his good standing in the Commandery renewed, and he should have been so reported in the annual report of St. Paul Commandery, No. 34, for 1885.

The Grand Commander submitted certain papers on the relations existing between the Grand Encampment of the United States and the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania,

which were referred to the committee on jurisprudence, who submitted the following report thereon:

The committee on jurisprudence, to whom was referred so much of the Grand Commander's address—"on the relations existing between the Grand Encampment of the United States and the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania," beg to report that they have given the document as careful consideration as the time would permit; and they are unable to endorse or approve it. They present the following resolutions, and recommend their adoption:

Resolved, That the representatives of this Grand Commandery to the triennial conclave of the Grand Encampment of the United States, to be holden in the city of St. Louis, be, and they are hereby instructed, faithfully to attend every session of the said conclave, to the exclusion of all other engagements, and earnestly labor to dispatch the proper business that may come before them, to the end that the Grand Encampment, whose reputation is dear to us, and to which we are bound by solemn vows, may not suffer through their neglect.

Resolved, That all members of the Grand Encampment, holding such membership by virtue of rank attained in this Grand Commandery, be courteously requested to personally attend the next triennial conclave, and co-operate with our representatives in the dispatch of business.

UNIFORM.

The special committee on uniform presented a full and comprehensive report thereon, which was accepted, and the following resolution, offered by Sir Henry C. Ranney, upon the subject, was adopted:

Resolved, That the "uniform" as reported by the committee on ritual, be adopted, as the construction placed on it by this Grand Commandery, to go into effect December 1st, 1886, provided the Grand Encampment at its next conclave does not amend, explain or annul, the present statute on uniform.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The report on correspondence is written by Sir Theodore T. Gurney, ably aided and assisted by that true and courteous Sir Knight, Henry Collins Ranney, and who, we see, succeeds Sir Gurney in his laborious position, so ably filled for

many years, and to whom Illinois is so deeply indebted for her present rank in Templar literature.

We part with Sir Gurney with regret, but cordially extend the hand of welcome to Sir Ranney, who is no novice in this or any other position in the Templar world.

We give Sir Gurney's parting words to the corps reportorial:

I submit my concluding report on correspondence. For the last half of the Masonic year my health has been so much impaired, and public duties so exacting, that but for the aid of Past Grand Commander Sir Knight Henry C. Ranney, I should not have attempted this work. More than this, the first days of August found me confined to my house by serious indisposition, and not until within the present month have I been able to give attention to customary avocations; the consequence has been, that I have been compelled to depend upon others for proof reading, and all else connected with the publication of this paper. I much regret the appearance of so many typographical errors, and hope that, under the circumstances, our fratreis will pardon what might appear, without this explanation, gross inattention to our duties.

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To the Sir Knights of our jurisdiction, and to contemporaries, we bid an affectionate adieu in this department of our fraternal labors.

MICHIGAN.

Michigan for 1885 is most courteously reviewed by Sir Ranney, and he has our thanks therefor.

It was our intention to quote freely from the report of the committee, but we found, after making our selections, that it would occupy too much space. We therefore give it our unqualified approval and earnestly commend its perusal to *all*.

CONCLUSION.

We give Sir Ranney's conclusion on his portion of the review, and close with that:

On the subject of the Grand Encampment, the writer has already expressed his opinion as to the indiscriminate abuse heaped upon it. He is not in favor of stripping it of any powers which it possesses; and he has failed to see any effort looking to a centralization of power,

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which seems to be so much dreaded. The Grand Encampment may and undoubtedly has committed errors; it is our duty to correct and reform them.

It has given us a ritual of Malta; at the next conclave it may and should give us a ritual of the Red Cross and the Temple; if it does not, many Grand Commanderies will take this matter in hand themselves.

It has given us the baldest attempt at a uniform that was ever thought of, and has persistently refused to amend it, except by amendments destroying uniformity. Some Grand Commanderies have placed their construction of what the uniform is, and we very much fear that unless the Grand Encampment stir themselves on this matter, the other Grand Commanderies will do it for them. Under Past Grand Master Gardner's decision, 1871, which follows, they have an undoubted right to do so.

"I think that the Grand Encampment has settled what the decorations of a Templar shall be. I do not feel at liberty to qualify or extend the regulation as now in force, inasmuch as it refers to costume, or regalia as it is called. *Where it is not specific or direct enough, Grand Commanderies must construe it.* I see no difficulty in your providing for such deficiency as you think exists. * * * I suppose the Grand Encampment went as far as it thought proper to go. If you desire to go further in the same direction, I see no objection to it. [Italics ours.]

The system of electing officers in the Grand Encampment is not to be commended; the fault, however, is with the representatives themselves; if states will make combinations to elect certain parties, and those not admitted to the ring vote for them, they only are to blame, and should not come home and grumble. Go for the corrupt rings.

We cannot help quoting from Grand Master Gardner's address, 1871, to the Grand Encampment on the subject of

ELECTIONS AND PROMOTIONS.

The Grand Encampment is a national body, whose territorial jurisdiction is co-extensive with that of the great republic in which it flourishes. In all the states, territories, and the district, gentlemen pre-eminent in the various departments of civil society have entered our asylums and been acknowledged Knights. We have, in our Grand and subordinate Commanderies, intelligence, judgment, learning, and executive ability sufficient to rule an empire. The Grand Encampment can at any time avail itself of this talent, since membership in a subordinate Commandery is the only constitutional requirement for office here. I allude to this for the purpose of calling your attention to the vast amount of suitable material existing for the officers of the Grand Encampment, and for raising my warning voice against the evil effects of official promotions in this national grand body. *The idea is prevalent, that once being placed in the line of promotion, as it is called, the incumbent has a lien upon every office above him, and if he is removed or suspended, that he is dealt with unjustly. The sooner this impression is removed, the better it will be for the Grand Encampment.* Office in this grand body is

worthy the ambition of any Templar in the republic: but if we establish a line of official promotion, how difficult it will be to gratify such ambition, or give place to merit or exalted worth. If the executive head remains in office but one term, it will require twelve years to pass through from the Grand Captain General's office." [Italics ours.]

The Grand Encampment adopted an installation ceremony; it is so bald in its details, and is drawn up with so little care in language or ritual, that it is absolutely useless, and should be sent back to a committee for correction and amplification.

We may be permitted here to close with an extract from a leading secular paper; it hardly comes within the province of a reviewer to notice it, but we give it, as we believe it covers the ground as completely as any thing that has or can be written, as to the alleged failure of the Grand Encampment to do its whole duty by the Order. Let them take the time devoted of late years to parades, excursions and junketings; invest it in a closer attention to business, and we shall not hear much more of complaint, or threats of secession.

"Some of the organs of Knight Templarism are beginning to call attention to the uselessness and extravagance of the 'triennial pilgrimages' of that Order, and are pushing the inquiry as to their effect on the morale of the organization. This is a matter in which the lay press has a right to take an interest, and to discuss precisely as it has the doings of Methodism, the Knights of Labor, or any other great body forming a part of our social order. The influence of the acts of Templarism reach far beyond the body itself; it furnishes an example which other organizations imitate, and produces a material effect upon its own members, by which they are influenced either for the better or worse as private citizens.

"As to the purposes of Templarism the public has nothing to do so long as they are limited within the Masonic domain; it is only when its acts begin to extend beyond the limits of this area, and make themselves felt in remote directions, and in matters concerning which Masonry has no sympathy, that the public may exercise the right to investigate and to criticise. One of the results of this ultra-Masonic influence is the creation of habits of extravagance and the expenditure by this body of vast sums of money which, if spent at all, should be for other purposes. The chief of these expenditures is made during the triennial pilgrimages, which, from a symbolical purpose, have been perverted into grand gala excursions, in which there remains no trace of the original intent. With the increase of wealth in this country, the various pilgrimages have become rival exhibitions as to which can make the greatest show, which can spend the most money, which can be the most lavish in an expensive hospitality. The reception given.

by Chicago some five years ago was of a sufficiently gorgeous character to awaken the rivalry of San Francisco, and at the last gathering all the prodigal glories of that auriferous city were brought into requisition to make the display grander than any of its predecessors.

"There is no probability that the coming triennial assemblage will be able to rival that held in California; but every effort will be made to make it as gorgeous and showy as possible. One of the Commanderies of this city has raked the union to find a brass band expensive enough to accompany it to and fro on the pilgrimage, and has finally had to depend on Canada to furnish music suitable for the occasion. Other measures equally extravagant in conception are being devised, each Commandery laboring to secure a display more bizarre and startling than any of the others. To the expense incurred in this direction will be added those of special trains in many cases, traveling supplies unlimited in quantity and cost, and finally a great personal outlay at the place of rendezvous.

"There should be a reform in all these points. Many of the Knights who take part in these extravagant triennial displays are not able to pay their share of the expenses, and are yet too proud to acknowledge it, and are obliged to distress themselves and their families to raise the necessary amount. Immense sums are spent by the Commanderies, as bodies, in these excursions without any adequate return for the outlay. Personal habits of extravagance are cultivated among the members, and money which should be devoted to charity, to the support of families, the education of children, the payment of debts, is foolishly thrown away.

"The —— assumes the right to say that this triennial 'blow-out' should be reduced in its dimensions till it becomes the simple, modest, inexpensive observance designed by its founders and expressed in the true intent of the Order. Less trappings, gilt, display, waste, and more devotion to the cardinal principle of Masonry, charity, are imperatively demanded by all those who hope for the perpetuity of Knight Templarism."

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir JOHN LANE WHITE, Bloomington, elected Grand Commander.

Sir GILBERT W. BARNARD, Chicago, re-elected Grand Recorder.

INDIANA.

THE thirty-first annual conclave was held in the city of Indianapolis, commencing April 28, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir WALTER VAIL, Grand Commander.

Sir JOHN M. BRAMWELL, Grand Recorder.

Thirty subordinate Commanderies represented. Eleven Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander opens his annual address as follows:

The dividing line between past and future which brings us together to-day to review the one and take action for the other, is approached after a year of, perhaps, unprecedented quietude in Templar history in this grand jurisdiction.

This condition of affairs would seem to be due, not to inertness among the subordinate bodies, but rather to the avoidance of causes of friction, indicative of that mindfulness of the principles of our Order, which is essential to its continued harmony and prosperity.

It is, therefore, with feelings of gratitude and pleasure that I greet you at the opening of this, our thirty-first, annual conclave, for, as peace hath her victories, no less renowned than war," it is also true, that the absence of all causes of discord, cements the bonds of fraternity between us.

IN MEMORIAM.

He alludes feelingly to the death of Sir Knight Charles Fisher, who, at the time of his decease, was Grand Treasurer of the Grand Commandery, and says of him:

Conscious of the truth of his convictions of right, justice, duty and propriety, he could not be induced to swerve from them. Realizing this noble trait in his character, it mattered not how much others may have differed with him, they still gave him their confidence, so that it rarely falls to the lot of any man to enjoy a greater amount of public confidence and esteem.

His habits were regular, his nature religious and charitable, devoted to the teachings of Masonry and the church of his choice; he was always at his post, and under their inspirations his life was regulated, suffering humanity never appealing to him in vain.

For nearly two years previous to his decease he was confined to his room, much of that time unable to see, shut out from the busy scenes of the world, whilst his faculties remained unimpaired except as they partook of the giving away of the body. He remained cheerful and hopeful, without a murmur, to the last, confident in hope of a place in that "city which hath foundations whose builder is God, eternal in the heavens."

The death of Sir Knight Elbridge Gerry Hamilton, P. G. C., was also brought to the attention of the Grand Body, and the following tribute paid his memory:

He was an ardent lover of Masonry, and expended much time, labor and money in acquiring a thorough knowledge of its mysteries in every department.

As one who claimed him a warm personal friend, tried and true, I feel that I can not permit this occasion to pass without testifying to his many excellent qualities. An intimate acquaintance, extending through a series of years, only served to strengthen the bonds of friendship between us, and deepen my regard for him. His sense of justice was acute, and yet, realizing that no man lived without error, he ever stood ready to throw charity's mantle around the many weaknesses of his brethren. While genial and affable in his general intercourse with men, he yet possessed a degree of reserve which, perhaps, caused among many a misconception of his true nature. One rule of his life can not be better expressed than in quoting the great poet—

"The friends thou hast, and their adoption tried,
Grapple them to thy soul with hooks of steel."

Whoever has claimed him as a friend, can but bear witness to his many noble traits of character, and, although now gone from view, his memory will linger while life continues.

GRIEVANCES.

He calls the attention of the Grand Commandery to the grievance of Muncie Commandery, No. 18, and says:

May 15, 1884, I received a communication from Sir S. A. Wilson, Eminent Commander of Muncie Commandery No. 18, calling my attention to the fact that that Commandery had given notice of an appeal to

the Grand Encampment against the action of this Grand Commandery in granting a dispensation for a new Commandery at Anderson, and requesting me to withhold such dispensation, pending such appeal, basing such request upon article one, section two, of the code of statutes of the Grand Encampment.

In reply to the above, I stated that I did not consider the statute referred to gave me, as Grand Commander, any authority to annul or suspend the operation of a deliberate act of the Grand Commandery, and declined to withhold said dispensation.

June 9, I received from Muncie Commandery a communication to the Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, with the request that I should forward it. The object of this communication was to give notice of the appeal above referred to, and to induce the Grand Master to issue an order and writ of supersedeas prohibiting the organization of said new Commandery at Anderson, or suspending the functions thereof until the determination of said appeal, provided said new Commandery should be organized before said order and writ could be issued. In forwarding the communication to Most Eminent Sir R. E. Withers, I gave a brief statement of the facts in the case for his information, and this led to several communications upon the subject involved, which correspondence is herewith submitted for the information of this Grand Commandery.

CLOSING.

And closes his address as follows:

Sir Knights, in laying down, as I shall shortly, the honors and the toils to which I was elected a year ago, permit me to express the wish that I might have rendered you and our common cause that effective service which my office has made possible for me to render. Such labors as my position required of me have been most cheerfully given, and if the wisdom of my official acts equaled the willingness with which they were performed, no man could justly criticise them. That this is not the case, I beg you to consider as my misfortune rather than my fault.

We may not know, we can not tell, how often we shall be permitted to meet each other in our several capacities as officers and members of this grand body, but whenever we may be summoned to appear before Him from whose commands there is no appeal, to give an account of our disposition of the trust committed to us in the ennobling principles of our Order, may we appear possessed of every sterling quality, of every grace, of every virtue, which characterizes the true Christian Knight, and receive the hoped for approval, "Well done."

A PROTEST.

Notwithstanding the protest of Muncie Commandery, No. 18, the following report of the committee on charters and dispensations was adopted:

Your committee on charters and dispensations, to which was referred the books and papers of Anderson Commandery, under dispensation, report that we have carefully examined the same, and find that their quarters are ample and conveniently arranged, their record a model of intelligence, their by-laws in harmony with the laws of the Grand Commandery and Grand Encampment; and that the proceedings had and labor performed have all been well done, entitling them to, and we therefore recommend, that a charter be granted said Commandery, under the title of Anderson Commandery Mo. 32, and that Sirs Winfield T. Durbin be the first Eminent Commander, Gideon C. Searle the first Generalissimo, and James Wellington the first Captain-General.

And upon its adoption, Sir Knight John R. McMahan, in behalf of Muncie Commandery, No. 18, entered the protest of said Muncie Commandery against the granting of said charter, and gave notice that an appeal from the action of the Grand Commandery, in this case, on the question of law involved, will be taken to the Grand Encampment.

DAKOTA.

The Grand Commandery of Dakota was reported upon and the following resolution adopted:

Resolved, That the Grand Commandery of Indiana extends its Knightly greetings to our fratreis of Dakota, and welcome them into the sisterhood of Grand Commanderies of the United States.

NON-PAYMENT OF DUES.

The following from the committee on jurisprudence was adopted:

On the question submitted by Sir Thomas B. Long, Eminent Commander Terre Haute Commandery No. 16, in regard to the appropriate penalty to be inflicted on conviction for non-payment of dues, your committee report that, upon a careful examination, they find that under the law, as it has heretofore existed, it has been left with the Commandery to inflict upon a member convicted for non-payment of dues,

such penalty as each, for itself, might judge proper. But your committee believes the time has now come when a uniformity should be observed in such matters. We therefore recommend that hereafter the only penalty that can be imposed by a Commandery, upon conviction for non-payment of dues, be indefinite suspension.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir Knight Nicholas R. Ruckle submitted the report on correspondence. It is in his usual style and well worthy a perusal. Thirty-five sister Grand Commanderies receive attention at his hands and among them is Michigan for 1884.

CALIFORNIA.

Referring to the address of the Grand Commander of California, he says:

He recommended that a fee of five dollars be charged for a dispensation to ballot out of time, and the same for a permission to re-ballot before the expiration of the statutory limitation after rejection.

The statutes of the Grand Commandery of California authorize the Grand Commander to issue a permission to re-ballot, but such legislation can not be regarded as in accordance with the code of the Grand Encampment, which provides that the "petition of one who has been rejected can not be renewed until at least six months after such rejection." The fact that Grand Master Dean decided that the issuance of such a dispensation, as to the Commanderies under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment, was within his prerogative, and that the committee on jurisprudence and the Grand Encampment sustained such decision, constitutes a just complaint against the administration of that body, which does not include among the indefeasible rights of itself or its presiding officer, that of violating its own statutes, even though it has the power of repealing them.

We notice further that the same section of the California statutes which authorizes the dispensation to re-ballot before the expiration of the statutory limit, also gives to the Grand Commander, power to issue permission to ballot for candidates without the reference of their petitions to committees, a grant of power directly in violation of the general statutes, and which as yet has not had the countenance of the Grand Master or the Grand Encampment.

ILLINOIS.

Under his review of Illinois he quotes the following from Sir Knight Gurney:

"It is not marvelous that Sir Knight Ralph S. Gregory, in behalf of Muncie Commandery No. 18, (the nearest body to the proposed new organization,) should have appealed from this wanton violation of law, to the Grand Encampment. If the committee had been more vigorous in their excavations for law, they would have found in article nine, paragraph three, of the code of statutes, the following mandatory provision: 'The petition for a dispensation **MUST** have indorsed upon it the recommendation of the Commandery nearest the location designed for the new one.' Italics ours. The succeeding provision demands the recommendation of *two* Commanderies, if the new one is to be located 'in a city where there is more than one Commandery.' If the committee had looked further it would have been found that the *only* exception to the foregoing is a provision embraced in a digest of Templar law, section sixteen, as follows: 'The provision requiring the recommendation of the nearest Commandery in order to form a new one, does not apply to dispensations granted by the Grand Master, who has absolute power in the premises.' The committee should have given all the law upon the subject, rather than an interpretation of the constitution of the Grand Encampment, that is not at all creditable to their intelligence."

And replies thereto as follows:

The original constitution of the Grand Encampment of the United States, adopted in 1816, prescribed, in the clause treating of the powers of "State Grand Encampments," that a petition for a charter must be recommended by the Council or Encampment, in the same State, nearest the place where the new body was to be located. In 1826, the power of the General Grand Master, and of the three officers next in rank, to institute Councils and Commanderies, hitherto practically unlimited, was restricted by an amendment requiring the consent of the nearest Encampment, in states where Encampments had already been established. These restrictions were continued in force in the constitution as amended in 1844, and again in 1850 and 1853.

At the conclave of 1853, a committee was appointed to report expedient amendments to the constitution and changes in the organization. Of this committee, Grand Master Hubbard was chairman, and Charles Gilman, C. W. Moore, W. T. Gould, and A. G. Mackey, were members. This committee reported at the session of 1856, and the constitution, as revised by them, was read and passed upon section by section. By it the power to institute new Commanderies was vested in the Grand Master alone of all the general grand officers, and the clause requiring the consent of the nearest Commandery, as a necessary condition to the exercise of this power by the Grand Master, was stricken out.

In the section defining the powers of a Grand Commander to grant a dispensation to form and open a Commandery during the recess of his Grand Commandery, the provision requiring the consent of the nearest Commandery was continued in force, and this is the only section in the constitution in which such restrictory clause was preserved.

In this constitution, it was expressly stated for the first time, that each state Grand Commandery shall have exclusive power to constitute new Commanderies in its jurisdiction, being exactly the same language as now used in section forty-three, article three, of the constitution of the Grand Encampment.

At the session of 1859, it was decided, by a vote upon the report of a committee, that as a condition precedent to the granting by the Grand Master of a dispensation, the consent of no Commandery was necessary, and therefore no objection could lawfully be made to the issuance of such dispensation.

The conclave of 1874 approved the decision of Grand Master Fellows, that a petition for a new Commandery required no recommendation. The decision was as follows:

"The practice has been to require a similar recommendation for a new Commandery as is the custom for Lodges, though in the latter case there are strict rules of the Grand Lodge which govern. But so far as the Grand Encampment is concerned, there is no rule, and the power of the Grand Master is absolute, either to grant or refuse, and with or without a recommendation."

The grant of powers to Grand Commanderies is clear and explicit; first in article two, section thirty-three, (6,) constitution of Grand Encampment, under the title, "Grand Commanderies—Powers and Duties:"

"It may grant or withhold dispensations and charters for new Commanderies."

This grant of power is enforced and strengthened by article three, section forty-three, under the title, "Subordinate Commanderies—How Constituted:"

"Each Grand Commandery shall have exclusive power to constitute new Commanderies within its jurisdiction."

These provisions are as clear and strong as the clauses which recognize the right of the Grand Encampment or the Grand Master to exercise similar powers. And the right to the absolute exercise of the prerogative of the Grand Encampment, the Grand Master, or of the State Grand Commandery, to grant or withhold dispensations, is nowhere qualified or vitiated by any clause of the constitution of the Grand Encampment.

The provisions of article three, section thirty-seven, (2,) (3,) (4,) under the title, "Grand Commanderies—the Grand Commander," can be construed to apply only to the Grand Commander of a state Grand Commandery. We quote:

2. He shall have the power and authority, during the recess of his Grand Commandery, to grant letters of dispensation to nine or more petitioners residing

within his jurisdiction, and possessing the constitutional qualifications, empowering them to form and open a Commandery.

3. Such dispensation shall be in force no longer than the next annual conclave of his Grand Commandery.

4. But no letters of dispensation for constituting a new Commandery shall be issued, save upon the recommendation of the Commandery in the same territorial jurisdiction nearest the location of the new Commandery prayed for.

If paragraph four, above quoted, has any reference beyond its immediate and direct application to the powers of the Grand Commander of a state Grand Commandery during recess, it has an equal bearing upon the powers of the Grand Encampment and of the Grand Master. We believe it will not be claimed that it has any bearing upon the matter in question.

This question as to the statutory requirement of a recommendation of the nearest Commandery (other than in case of an application to a Grand Commander during the recess of the Grand Commandery,) rests solely upon nine, three, of the code of statutes, which declares that "the petition for a dispensation must have endorsed upon it the recommendation of the Commandery nearest the location designated for the new one."

This provision, too, is broad and general, and if it constitutionally applies to any petition for a dispensation, it applies to all. But it has been decided that it does not apply to dispensations issued by the Grand Master—because he derives absolute power in this regard from the constitution, which enumerates among his special duties and prerogatives the authority to grant letters of dispensation during the recess of the Grand Encampment for the institution of new Commanderies.

The clauses of the Constitution which give the Grand Commandery authority to grant or withhold dispensations and charters, are of equal weight with those which confirm the same power to the Grand Encampment and the Grand Master.

The constitution of the Grand Encampment says, indisputably and without qualification, that "each Grand Commandery shall have exclusive power to constitute new Commanderies within its jurisdiction." Can that power be exclusive which depends for its exercise upon the consent or ratification of a subordinate?

A Grand Commandery assuredly can not be deprived of a vested constitutional right by a statutory enactment, or in any other manner than by repealing or amending the clauses on which its vested right depends. The exercise of an exclusive power, granted by the constitution, can not be qualified or restricted by a statutory enactment.

From the adoption of the constitution of 1856 to 1874, and up to the present time, no decision questioning or denying the exclusive

power of a Grand Commandery to grant or withhold charters or dispensations, has ever been rendered.

We hope Sir Ranney will give our valiant Knight Gurney a chance to reply to the above, and we venture the assertion that Gurney can, and will, fully vindicate his position.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir HENRY C. ADAMS, Indianapolis, elected Grand Commander.

Sir JOHN M. BRAMWELL, Indianapolis, re-elected Grand Recorder.

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IOWA.

THE twenty-second annual conclave was held at Marshalltown, commencing October 22, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir JAMES MORTON, Grand Commander.

Sir JOHN C. PARISH, Grand Recorder.

Thirty-nine subordinate Commanderies represented. Eight Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

Of the state of the Order in his jurisdiction the Grand Commander says:

It is made my duty to render to you at this time an account of my stewardship, and I submit herewith the official report of my doings as your Grand Commander.

I am pleased to be able to report that during the past year the administration of the affairs of the jurisdiction has been accomplished with very little occasion for my official interference. The Order has been fairly but not unduly prosperous, and if the accessions to our ranks have not been as great as in some former years, we may indulge the hope that we have gained in quality all that we fall short in quantity. Peace and good will prevail generally among our subordinates, and our relations with sister grand jurisdictions continue of the most amicable character.

DISPENSATIONS.

A dispensation was granted to form and open a Commandery at Iowa Falls.

DECISIONS.

Of the decisions made during the year the Grand Commander says:

I am gratified to report that I have been called upon to make very few decisions during the year, and as these were generally provided for by existing regulations, I do not deem it necessary to make special mention of any of them.

SCOTTISH RITE MASONRY.

The Grand Commander travels out of his way to tell the Knights Templar of Iowa something about the Supreme Council Thirty-third Degree, etc., all of which is, or ought to be, a sealed book to Templar Masonry; but, of course, the ground has to be traveled over and over again. If Scottish Rite Masonry can't take care of itself, let it go; don't mix with it on every occasion. But we will quote in full Sir Morton's "say so" on this subject:

During the past year the seeds of discord and dissension have been sown in this jurisdiction by the emissaries and solicitors of an organization styling itself "The Supreme Council, Thirty-third Degree, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, for the United States of America, their territories and dependencies." By systematic and positive misrepresentation, and by the use of other means never regarded as reputable by the fraternity, a number of our Sir Knights have been induced to give their allegiance to this so-called Supreme Council, and to part with their money for what, in the nature of things, can be of no benefit to them. To me, it is surprising that in this year of grace, 1885, there could be found in the jurisdiction of Iowa a Knight Templar who could be induced to invest in degrees whose only recommendation, considering the source, is their cheapness. This organization is one of three irregular councils of the Scottish Rite at present operating from the city of New York, not one of which is recognized at home or abroad. Whatever may be their legal right to exist elsewhere, they are, beyond all question, irregular in Iowa, where Scottish Rite bodies, deriving their authority from a Supreme Council recognized as legitimate throughout the world, have had a continuous and successful

existence since 1867. It is not my purpose to discuss Scottish Rite matters at all, but as the final tendency of such invasion of occupied territory can only be to breed jealousies and contentions in the bosom of an Order heretofore prosperous and harmonious, I deemed it my duty to call your attention to the facts as they exist, for any action you may judge expedient or necessary.

The committee to whom that part of his address was referred, not to be outdone, thus give their views:

The Grand Commander very properly calls attention to the subject of illicit or spurious Masonry, with which we have heretofore—in years gone by—had to deal, and which is again seeking a foot-hold in this state, under cover of pretense that it is a sympathetic rite, but yet distinct from the York practice. Of course this is wholly misleading, and untrue in every particular. This matter has already engaged the attention of several of our sister jurisdictions, among which may be named Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Ohio, and others, all of which have adopted very stringent measures concerning the attempted imposition. The effect of these spurious organizations is to create discord in our membership, which must be avoided. We can not fraternize save with lawful bodies. While your committee do not recommend any immediate action by this Grand Commandery with reference to that matter, we believe it the part of wisdom that our members be fully advised concerning this attempted and audacious imposture, to the end that they may be able to protect themselves from these counterfeits and the Order from dissension; for, while unrecognized by any legitimate body of Masons in the world, but on the contrary, expressly condemned by all, yet the parties concerned in the imposition are striving, through the inducement of cheap fees, to make merchandise of their still cheaper wares, and peddle them out to the unsuspecting—and all for the pecuniary profit of a few sharpers, whose only object is the money to be received.

GRAND ENCAMPMENT.

The Grand Commander, while referring to the meeting of the Grand Encampment of the United States, says:

At your annual conclave in 1882 you adopted certain resolutions defining the position of this Grand Commandery relative to the powers of the Grand Encampment. This question is now receiving attention at the hands of a number of other Grand Commanderies, and considerable discussion is being indulged in, not altogether favorable to the central body. If the Grand Encampment has departed from the constitution of the fathers, the evil can better be remedied by other means

than by secession. My judgment is, that it is better "to bear those ills we have, than fly to others that we know not of," and I am persuaded, from experience at home during the past year, that should the Grand Encampment resolve unanimously to go out of existence to-morrow, a dozen Grand Encampments would spring up all over the land, each one claiming to be the legitimate and only true one, and proceed to peddle the Orders of Knighthood for whatever they could get for them. If you desire to instruct your delegates to the Grand Encampment on any of the questions now agitating the Templars of the country, I would recommend that the matter be referred to a special committee to report at this grand conclave.

So much of that part of the address of the Grand Commander, was referred to a special committee, who reported thereon as follows:

That the committee have duly considered the subject—no new matter in this jurisdiction, nor indeed in many others where the vital "questions presented are receiving attention at the hands of a number of other Grand Commanderies," as we learn from the well-timed address of our Grand Commander. With him, your committee do not feel called upon to discuss the subject of the dissolution of that grand body, or of withdrawing from it. But we do consider it eminently proper that this Grand Commandery should reaffirm the position assumed by this body in 1882, and followed by so many others since, and to insist that due heed and proper consideration be given to our grievances, and those under which a majority of the Grand Commanders are laboring.

The great evil lies in the centralizing power and tendency of the Grand Encampment, its chief officers, and committees. It is well known that there is practically no change in either. Triennial after triennial only one of the former goes out, that each remaining may be advanced a step; and so not only all the honors, but the powers for good and evil (in which the latter greatly predominates,) are centered and remain in the few. Under the present law, the large jurisdictions, as New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, etc., have no more votes or voice in the management of the affairs of the Grand Encampment than any four of the subordinates under its immediate jurisdiction, which do not pay one-tenth of the revenue or tax levied for the support of the Grand Encampment. Of the several standing and special committees, by the favoritism of the Grand Master, seven-tenths of their membership has been centered in three-tenths of the constituent bodies. In most cases several life-members serving on even three and four committees, while

many Grand Commanders have none at all. The evils growing out of this are that the complaints of the constituent Grand Commanderies are not considered, and so go unredressed. But the greatest evil lies in the fact that so much arbitrary power is vested in the Grand Encampment and its Grand Master, that the rights of the Grand Commanderies are ignored. It is also true that the three great purposes for which the Grand Encampment was instituted, have utterly failed of accomplishment, viz: "Uniform, ritual, and discipline." While it is lamentably too true that the Grand Encampment has lent the whole force of its influence and example to a subject never contemplated in its constitution—that of parades, which, as practiced at the triennial conclaves, are utterly subversive of the purpose for which the Order was instituted, viz: Legislation for the general good.

The brief period, less than an hour, which we have had to prepare the report, precludes your committee from enlarging upon any of these topics. With the Grand Commander, we are disposed to right these evils, if possible, within the Grand Encampment, and not out; by constitutional, rather than by violent methods.

Your committee fully endorse the action of the old, and large, and intelligent Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania, rather than that of the more violent resolves of some others. We therefore ask the Grand Commandery of Iowa to wheel into line and adopt the resolves of that Grand Commandery, in the following:

1. *Resolved*, That the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, abandon the system of centralized and exclusive power which it now maintains, and return to the general system devised by its founders.
2. *Resolved*, That its laws be revised, and so simplified, as to include general principles only, leaving to Grand Commanderies the power, which of right belongs to them, to legislate upon all matters of detail.
3. *Resolved*, That sovereign power be recognized as vested in Grand Commanderies, and such general powers only in the Encampment as may be expressly delegated to it.
4. *Resolved*, That under the general legislation of the Grand Encampment, jurisdiction be vested in Grand Commanderies over the subjects of uniform, ritual, and membership.
5. *Resolved*, That in order that the Grand Encampment may in peace and quietness provide the legislation necessary to carry out the foregoing changes, it is in duty bound to positively prohibit all parades and entertainments at the time and place when and where its conclaves shall be held.

E

6. *Resolved*, That the representatives of this Grand Commandery at the coming triennial conclave of the Grand Encampment, be instructed to present and press the action contemplated in the foregoing resolutions.

CORRESPONDENCE.

And now we come to the report on correspondence. It is from the pen of that acute and pungent writer, Sir Knight Guilbert, and that fact insures it a place in the front rank of reports. Sir Guilbert gives no uncertain sounds; he says what he means, and is honest enough to believe what he says.

He takes up one hundred and thirty-five of the one hundred and eighty-six pages of the proceedings, and he gives his views on the doings of twenty-seven sister Grand Commanderies, Michigan for 1885 among the number.

ARKANSAS.

Under Arkansas he quotes what Sir Tuffts says, of the tender care that ought to be taken of the Grand Encampment, to avert some supposed evils that would follow its dissolution, and says:

This is the stereotyped argument (?) The only reply necessary to the statement that if the Grand Encampment were abolished chaos would come, is to cite the reader to the history and career of the American Grand Lodges. Each is supreme in its sphere; no central abnormality with its oligarchical methods of government, its incentives to extravagant expenditures, and its violation of the sedate traditions of the fathers frets and supervises the Grand Lodge; yet the fraternal family thrives and does well its work; and the well-informed Master Mason finds homes in every state that he may visit, which, with unimportant differences in details, are alike his own. The men who compose the Grand Lodges also have to do with the Grand Commanderies. It is but logical to suppose that the wisdom they exhibit in the one body is not lost when they enter the other, and that the same order and harmony which so characterize the relations of the Grand Lodges would be carried into the Grand Commanderies, and dominate them as they have dominated the others. The Grand Commander of Arkansas to the contrary, notwithstanding, there is no danger of Templarism being "wrecked on the shoals of discord and division," should it happen that the central incubus were abolished.

KENTUCKY.

He has "heaps" to say under the head of Kentucky, and quotes what Sir Woodruff says of Sir Guilbert's "love," the Grand Encampment, as follows:

"We cannot prevail upon our calm judgment to endorse his relentless attack upon the Grand Encampment, which are made, for the most part, because he disapproves of a supreme Templar body. He advances no explicit reason why the present plan of Templar government is not the best, but continually reiterates the statement that the Grand Encampment 'has left undone those things which it ought to have done, and it has done those things which it ought not to have done, and there is no health in it.' The remedy for this state of things is for members like Sir Knight Guilbert, who have the good of the Order *unselfishly* at heart, to attend the triennial conclaves and carry on the 'revolution' *in* the union, and thus maintain and strengthen the 'bond of union' among individual Templars, which, after all, is of more worth and pleasure than any other consideration whatever."

And "comes back on him" with the following:

I thought I had been "explicit," Woodruff. Let me repeat: I hold that tradition and experience teach that it is **BEST**, in every point of view, that the state grand bodies should be "a law unto themselves" in their own jurisdictions, which, better than any foreign body, they know how to govern aright; guided, as they would be, by the theories of true Masonic government, handed down to us by the conservative and righteous fathers.

I hold that to deliver these inherent powers to a central organization, is subversive of the spirit of Masonry, forasmuch as it sooner or later fails not to create a caste, having all the autocratic features thereof, in an institution whose basic and beautiful idea is that its votaries—

"Meet upon the level, though from ev'ry station come,
The rich man from his mansion, the poor man from his home;
For the one must leave his wealth and state outside the Mason's door,
And the other finds his true respect upon the checkered floor."

I hold that the abnormality with which we are afflicted has become, by reason of the weak consent of the state bodies, an oligarchy; a tyrannous, self-seeking oligarchy; which, true to the monarchial and, therefore, CASTE idea, has constituted itself an un-American *ad vitam* hub to the Templar wheel, each Grand Commandery spoke thereof being "held and firmly bound" to it by the iron band of subserviency, and each, with every revolution, kissing the dust in its honor.

I hold that for the past quarter of a century the Masonic politicians who compose the oligarchy have slowly but surely made encroach-

ments upon the inherent rights of the Grand Commanderies, by insidious law changes, until now the state bodies which once were *constituent* have become *subordinate* bodies in the fullest sense of that comprehensive word; having no rights other than those which the arrogant oligarchy sees fit to accord them. The most prominent right(?) now left to them being that of paying tithes to keep these "curled darlings" supplied with the wherewithal to salary themselves and perpetuate their usurpation.

I hold that while the abnormality has some among its rulers, present and prospective—*prospective*, should the omnipotent caucus *so* decide—who are right-minded men, and whose innate sense of justice makes them but half-hearted adherents; there are others who have no standing at home, except such as the mere abnormality connection gives them; and yet others whose personal habits are so obnoxious to Templar teachings that they are unfit to be leaders of the thousands of fraters who are their superiors in all respects, and are unworthy position even in a body which represents nothing save itself. Notwithstanding that body introduces into its triennial hippodrome performances a devotional scene, which, because of its surroundings, is quite as indicative of love for the Blessed Emmanuel as was his who—

" Built God a church and laughed His word to scorn."

I hold that to the malign influence of the central body is directly ascribable the present abnormal passion for tinsel and public display. That the demoralization has reached such proportions that the "whole head is sick," per consequence of heroic doses of "flap doodle," and "the whole heart is faint," because of efforts to escape from obedience to "the weighty matters of the law—judgment, mercy, and faith."

I have said these things, in varying phrase, over and over again. The indictment has not been explained away, nor can it be. In this new crusade to redeem the sepulchre from the hands of the infidel, "the genius and the mortal instruments" of the Order "are in counsel;" and I sincerely hope they may triumph. In saying these things, I have no end in view save the one great end of bringing to pass a thorough reformation in the methods of the central body; out of which reform shall come the return to the state bodies of inherent powers unwisely yielded by them. Failing in this "consummation," which is "devoutly wished" by every impartial lover of Masonry, means should be devised whereby to remove this morbid growth from our body politic—whose vital principle it is slowly consuming—and send the ignominious wreck to "company with" the innumerable associational wrecks which strew the shores of the ocean of time, and which have

imposed costly penalties for the lessons of wisdom they have inculcated.

The kind advice given the undersigned, and others, as to the proper method of reaching the gracious end of reformation, and as to their duty in the premises, would have been more appropriate had Woodruff, in connection therewith, noticed my succinct answer last year to that ad-captandum argument. He has often, in plain terms, and again by implication, expressly entered his protest against the modern methods of the abnormality. He has generally been at the triennials. I might retort, and ask *why he* has not attempted to "carry on the revolution in the union." Doubtless he would reply, and he would but state a fact, that no one man, or half-dozen men, could accomplish anything in this direction, unless they acted in concert, after due consultation, and had a determined voting force behind them. When such an organization "within the union" is formed and courageously led, it will not only be "heard for its cause," but sooner or later will succeed. Meanwhile, the earnest advocates of the many against the well-entrenched few must continue "to labor and to wait."

"Time," Sir Woodruff; we will see that you are properly sponged!

MICHIGAN.

Under Michigan, Sir Guilbert says:

So, Michigan Templary allows all the subordinates to parade on memorial day—a hallowed day, truly, but not a Templar one—and refuses to permit them to march on the holier day, whose memories recall the fateful incidents surrounding the nation's birth.

We are surprised that Sir Guilbert cannot distinguish the difference between the Fourth of July and Decoration Day. We see a "heap," and while we heartily commend P. G. C. Moore, for granting permission to parade and participate in strewing flowers on dead heroes' graves, we would have as severely condemned him had he allowed Templar parades on the Fourth of July.

He quotes the following from our report:

"We have no patience with the effort made in this direction. What does a Knight Templar want to bother his head with the 33°, 96°, or 196°, if there are so many high degrees? If Pike and Palmer can't take care of their flock, let them alone; life is too short for Knights Templar to enlist in that warfare."

And comments thereon as follows, which coincide with our views entirely:

In which I fully concur. This attempt to subordinate the American Masonic system, so long existant, to the Scotch rite, is an outrage. Its inspiration comes generally from men of that rite, who likewise are active in Templary, and who find this very vigorous Cerneau "revival" to be worrying them "consumedly," and to be putting "their craft in danger," putting it in danger because of the extended advertisements their unwise use of these methods, and of the secular press, has given that "revival." As members of the American system, we have nothing to do with these outside quarrels, and our annuals ought not to be sullied by mention thereof. Neither have Templar or other grand bodies of the American system the right to dictate as to what *other* secret societies, affiliated or unaffiliated by name, Freemasons may join. They might with as much propriety prescribe our church and political affiliations. A committee to whom the California proposition was referred, sought to do this in effect, but the Grand Commandery sat down heavily on the whole thing, evidently thinking, unlike the Grand Chapter of the same state, that it was not within its province to decide as to the legitimacy or illegitimacy of this, that, or the other "rite," outside of its own. The party to be bothered with such a decision, is the candidate himself. *He* "pays his money," and should "have his choice." The precise direction in which that choice may send him, is his business, not ours.

OHIO.

In reviewing Ohio, Sir Guilbert quotes the following from Sir Carson's report:

Under the head of California, Carson makes this comment on what the Grand Commander had to say about the Cerneau appearance in that commonwealth:

"We endorse and approve every word contained in the foregoing. It is time that the honorable Masons of the country, well-wishers of the Order, should speak out, and take action to prevent the traffic in sham Masonry. If it is allowed to go on, the time is not far distant when the Order, in all its branches, will be abandoned to Masonic bungoists and deadbeats; and honorable men in it will be unknown."

And replies as follows:

I must be permitted to dissent from the foregoing. I maintain that Templary has no business to interfere in these chronic Scotch rite quarrels, and that it is the height of impertinent tyranny for any Masonic body to dictate to those of its obedience what other affiliations they *may* seek. So long as they are not in violation of the laws of God and man, a Mason's associations, outside the Order Masonically, *are*, and of right ought to be, matters which concern his own conscience, and that

only. If these rival claimants to legitimacy cannot settle their differences in the newspapers of the day, in which arena they are prone to make gladiatorial displays, let them remove them to a court of law. That is the proper tribunal to clear up titles and settle commercial disputes. No grand Masonic body of the American system is a mercantile agency created to decide, for the benefit of a-favored few, as to the soundness of this, that, or the other of the horde of imitative or allied organizations, whose respective advocates, with—

"Fire in each eye, and papers in each hand,
Now rave, recite, and madden round the land."

If the favored few aforesaid are allowed to brow-beat the uninterested majority into winking at such a prostitution of Masonic theories, they will arouse a storm which may disrupt the Order. These acrimonious quarrels in the A. and A. rite have been going on for many years. Once there were several of these supreme councils in full blast in the north, each one loudly proclaiming its own title to legitimacy, basing its claim on foreign rite official recognition, and each one firing at the other opprobiously-worded expulsion edicts, and filling the land with their unbrotherly clamor. Even that good old man, your own lamented Van Rensselaer, was once honored by being thus expelled. These wretched exhibitions have made the rite notorious. Meanwhile, the various bodies of the American system have pursued the prosperous "even tenor of their way," because they have had the good sense to keep aloof from outside strifes in which they had no concern. That vantage ground of stern neutrality those bodies should continue to occupy. **THERE** they are secure, and only there.

Our American system is a boon to humanity. Its mission ought not to be put in peril by reason of the intrusion of such disturbing questions as this. When I recall the wondrous history of American Masonry, I do not share the expressed fears of Carson. I do not believe with him, that if the various grand bodies do not take it upon themselves authoritatively to determine which of these supreme councils is the "original Doctor Jacob Townsend," chaos will come. During the years of this century many an alleged Masonic body has appeared, like

"— a walking shadow, a poor player
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
And then is heard no more."

American Masonry has not dignified one of them by debating with it. It has in every instance contemptuously "shook off the venomous beast and felt no harm." American Masonry cannot be hurt by coun-

terfeits so long as she refuses to give them prominence, and make them appear as *rivals* by entering into controversy with them.

Do not misunderstand me, Carson. I am not meaning to *defend* one supreme council and *condemn* another. This Templar platform is not the place for that, in my judgment.

Permit me to remark, however, that when off that platform I am asked for my own opinion as to the merits of *this* controversy, I simply say that my own allegiance is due that branch of the rite over which Palmer presides, and in which, by the by, you, Carson, are a deservedly conspicuous figure. That this allegiance is heartily rendered, because I know that general recognition and a long career has given that body "the guinea's stamp" of regularity, and because my associations therein are congenial.

But I cannot controvert certain facts, nor can any one successfully do this, viz: That, in their inception, the Cerneau bodies (of Perfection) were the *regular*, and De La Motte (Gourgas) were the *schismatic*, the latter dying of inanition about the year 1818, while the former, sanctioned by the Supreme Council of France, the mother of the rite, maintained its organization until 1827, when it succumbed to the Morgan craze, by which innumerable Masonic altars were overthrown; that Cerneau received his patent from Morin, the founder of the rite in America, under the authority of the Supreme Council of France; that the illustrious DeWitt Clinton, and others who were even more conspicuous in Masonic annals, were the leaders of the Cerneau bodies; that Clinton was at their head when he died, in 1828, his authority then being unquestioned; that he was regularly succeeded by Elias Hicks, a distinguished Grand Secretary of one of the New York Grand Lodges; that Count De St. Laurent, under French authority, resuscitated that Council in 1832, with Elias Hicks as Sovereign Grand Commander, old members thereof assisting; that the unforgotten Lafayette received the grades in this body during his visit to America in 1824, and was its Grand Representative to the Supreme Council of France up to the date of his death, in 1834—subsequent to which De St. Laurent became his successor; that the "revived" council had a continuous though feeble existence until 1846, when it was dissolved; that history again repeated itself in 1848, and vows were violated, and the aged Gourgas was induced to become interested in a "revival" of the De La Motte-Gourgas council, which had become extinct in 1818; that the venerable and decrepit Gourgas was spurred on by the specious doctrine invented by the southern branch, to-wit: "A Supreme Council once founded can never cease its existence so long as one of the Inspectors-General remains alive," and so lent his name to a "revival" of the La Motte-

Gourgas council as the only surviving Inspector-General thereof; that on the same doctrine on which the Gourgas "revival" of 1848 was upbuilt, was the Cerneau Council continued as the Supreme Council of New York, through Atwood and his associates; that it was regularly reorganized under Cross, by old-time members, in 1851, that re-organization having the active support of Mulligan, who was Sovereign Grand Commander in 1828, and was succeeded by Clinton—as Mulligan himself had succeeded Cerneau in 1821; that Mulligan was at that time honored in public life, and was Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York as well, and had not lost his character in 1851; that besides Cross and Mulligan, there were present and consenting to this "revival" such men as Salem Town, John W. Simons, Robert G. Folger, Past Grand Master Ells, and Past Grand Secretary Jones, of Connecticut, and Past Grand Master Darcey, of New Jersey; that as late as 1862 this "revived" council had subordinate consistories in Connecticut, Massachusetts, California and New Jersey—the latter having among its officers such men as Corson, George B. Edwards, Hough, Woodruff, Bechtel, etc. When I remember all these facts, and then recall the violent revolution in the Gourgas body in 1860, which resulted in Raymond's withdrawal and Van Renselaer's accession to command, a revolution, by the way, which, despite Raymond's organization of a rival body—for he carried his powers with him, they say—proved to be a pronounced success, one illustrating the Darwinian theory of the SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST; you must not wonder, Carson, that I, in common with the many, have an invincible repugnance to contaminating the American system by the introduction of these acrimonious, disgraceful, and puzzling Scotch rite controversies, which are the opprobria of Masonry. The rank and file look upon the chronic debate with disgust; and not one in fifty of them care to spend time to read its stormy history. They take no interest in a study of the harlequinades of its numerous eccentric actors during the past eighty years. Yet, if they *had* a taste for Physchical investigation, they would be deeply interested in what is now repugnant to them. For the lessons to be derived from a study of the activities and mental obliquities of the aforesaid actors—those modern Theudases—would have a certain value. Those lessons would instruct and admonish, at one and the same time, as the investigator noted how those "Stormy Petrels" of the rite—whose appearance always preceded bad weather—when they had "soured" on immediate endeavor, at once quaffed deeper draughts of arrogance—their habitual tipple—re-annealed their "cheek," and putting their wonder working "powers" into their grip-sacks, departed on the—

"To-morrow to fresh woods and pastures new."

there to re-enthrone discord.

Yet, for obvious reasons, I cannot join in calling those "bunkoists" and "deadbeats" who are engaged in the latest "revival," and who are announcing it precisely as history shows all its predecessors to have done. Besides, this "revival" is managed by a body of men, some of whom—particularly Folger—are the equals in scholarship, and all of whom are Masons in good standing, and socially and in a business point of view, are not inferior to their contemnors. The money payments these men make to the bodies of the American system, by which bodies these warring factions should be ignored, ought not, in justice, to be used to defray the expense of printing such denunciation as is now leveled.

It is wisdom to keep this disputatious serpent out of our Eden. To coquette with it would be as fruitful of evil as was the flirtation Eve had with the historic snake, in the morning of Time. We have enough to contend with now in an ethical way. Let us not add to our burdens.

Let—

"—us rather bear those ills we have,
Than fly to others that we know not of."

Perhaps the *former* can be exercised when we come, in time, to be wholly actuated by "the sober second thought." The latter would create a dangerous mutiny, and break us into warring fragments, and thus abase Masonry and do injury to humanity.

* * * * *

We are sorry we have not the space to do this report the justice it deserves, but we are reminded it would occupy a good-sized book to do so, and we cannot spare the money—the time we would willingly give. Regretting deeply that for the present we part with Sir Guilbert, and hoping it is but for a short time, we give in full his conclusion, and with all sincerity echo his "good-bye."

Again I lay down the reportorial pen, which I resumed three years ago in obedience to the request of the lamented and beloved Langridge. I should have been glad to have retained it long enough to have written the post-triennial review; but it was otherwise decreed, and so I retire. It is a pleasure to know that I retire to give place to a competent and courteous Sir Knight.

The work I have done has been conscientiously and frankly done, and of it I am not ashamed. So far as it was in my power, I have kept the banner of our Grand Commandery "full high advanced." The opportunity to do this came to me unsought. But the labor was congenial, and I did my best to make it worthy the opportunity.

I part from the members of the guild with sincere regret. My intercourse with them has, in the main, been exceedingly agreeable, and really profitable to myself. In another and a wider field I hope to meet most of them in the near future. The meeting to me will be a pleasant one. On Christmas day, in obedience to delightful custom, I saluted them all at High XII.

Should I not live to do this again, when next Christmas "the bright fraternal chain" once more is formed, may *I* be remembered as the cordial greeting passes along the line of vigilant sentinels upon the temple walls, like "the sound of a going in the tops of mulberry trees." If the spirits of the departed are permitted—as I fondly believe—to hold inscrutable communion with those they have loved while in this finite life, *then* will my shade "bestir itself," and come to them to mingle with their aspirations, and whisper hopes of the "better land" where all wrongs are righted; where all the problems of life which so vex us here satisfactorily are solved, and above all, where—

"The smile of the Lord is the feast of the soul."

And so, brethren of the guild, each and all—

"With a sigh for those who love me,
And a smile for those we hate;
And whatever sky above me,
A heart for any fate,"

I say, good-bye, which hail being translated, meaneth—God be with you.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir WILLIAM A. McGREW, Ottumwa, elected Grand Commander.

Sir JOHN C. PARISH, Des Moines, re-elected Grand Recorder.

KANSAS.

THE last annual conclave was held in Atchison, commencing May 12, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir JACOB DEWITT, Grand Commander.

Sir JOHN H. BROWN, Grand Recorder.

Twenty subordinate Commanderies represented. Eight Past Grand Commanders present.

CONDITION OF THE ORDER.

On the condition of the Order the Grand Commander says:

Our Order is in good condition throughout the State—no element of discord has intruded into our asylums, but peace prevails within our walls, and prosperity within our palaces.

For all this let us render our heartfelt thanks to the Great Captain of our salvation, who has been so gracious to us, and in whom we live, and move and have our being.

DECISION.

The following was the only decision rendered by the Grand Commander:

A Companion Royal Arch Mason who resides in Kansas, and within the jurisdiction of Oswego Commandery, No. 7, had applied to Ascension Commandery, No. 39, of Missouri, for the Orders of Knighthood; from whom should waiver of jurisdiction be sought? From Oswego Commandery, No. 7? from the Grand Commander? or the Grand Commandery of Kansas?

I decided that Oswego Commandery, No. 7, had exclusive control over the companion, and they only could give the proper waiver.

CLOSING..

He closes his address as follows:

And now, Sir Knights, the record of the past year has been closed. Whatever has been done amiss, or left undone, whatever of its duties have been neglected, cannot now be remedied; we can only make

amends for our shortcomings by a more earnest and diligent attention in the future. We can all see times and places where our action has been erroneous. If we profit by our experience, then can it be said that our labor has not been in vain.

My heartfelt thanks are due to Sir Knight, the Grand Recorder, who has so ably and cheerfully aided me in the discharge of my duties, also to V. E. Sir Knight Burton E. Langdon and E. Sir Knight Henry C. Cook for their courteous assistance.

And now, I return to you the badge of office with which you so kindly invested me one year ago, asking you to pardon my shortcomings and cover my errors and imperfections with the broad mantle of charity and brotherly love.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.

R. E. Silas E. Sheldon, Past Grand Commander and the duly accredited representative of the M. E. Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America, was announced.

The E. Grand Captain General formed the lines, and the distinguished Sir Knight was conducted to the Asylum and received under an Arch of steel, with the honors due his rank, and cordially welcomed by the R. E. Grand Commander and invited to a seat in the Grand East.

RESOLUTIONS OF CONDOLENCE.

We quote the following from the committee on doings of Grand Officers, and join with them in their heartfelt sympathy to our beloved Sir Knight. May he be brought to see the silver lining to this dark cloud:

We are pained to note, in the report of the R. E. Grand Commander, that a great sorrow has come into his life and home. The death Angel that spares neither high nor low, and which often seems to seek as its victims the fairest of earth, came to summons the lovely daughter of our honored and beloved frater, and she was taken from a kind home and devoted parents. We wish to express our heartfelt sympathy for our frater and his family in this their great affliction; and in doing so we are reminded that the good and pure of earth, who pass away, are only ushered into peace and joy eternal.

May the grace of the risen Lord, whom we adore, sustain our Grand Commander in these hours of affliction and sorrow.

PROXIES.

Sir Knights Thomas J. Anderson and Andrew M. Callahan, Past Grand Commanders, not being able to attend this annual conclave, gave their proxies to certain Sir Knights (being members of the same Commandery) to represent them in all matters coming before the Grand Commandery. Some doubt arose as to the right of Past Grand Commanders to give proxies.

After some discussion pro and con, the question was referred to the committee on jurisprudence with instructions to report at an early hour, which they did as follows, and which report was adopted:

Your committee on jurisprudence report upon the matter submitted to them, relating to the right of representation by proxy at the annual conclave:

1. That by the statutes adopted for the government of this Grand Commandery, at the time of its organization, it was provided that all the Present Grand Officers, and all Past Grand Commanders, Past Deputy Grand Commanders, Past Grand Generalissimos, Past Grand Captains-General; also, all Eminent Commanders, Generalissimos, and Captains-General of regularly constituted Commanderies, might be represented by proxy in the conclaves of this Grand Commandery, and such has continued to be the rule and right of representation ever since.

2. That by the statutes of the Grand Encampment, providing for the government of Grand Commanderies, it is provided that the several officers above named may be represented by proxy in the conclaves of a Grand Commandery, and this right being one personal to each officer this Grand Commandery cannot limit it, and in the revision of the statutes of this Grand Commandery in 1884, no reference was made to this right for the reason it was not intended by the revision to legislate upon any subject fully covered by the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment.

We conclude, therefore, that all the present officers and all permanent members of this Grand Commandery, except Past Commanders of Commanderies, may be represented by proxy in any Grand Conclave.

TRIENNIAL PILGRIMAGE.

A committee was appointed to look after all matters con-

nected with the pilgrimage of the Grand Commandery to the next triennial conclave of the Grand Encampment.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir Knight John H. Brown writes (as usual) the report on correspondence, and we join in his closing words in courteously commanding them to reading Templars. They will find much to interest and instruct them.

Of Sir Jessa E. Saxton's address he says:

The annual address is a paper of marked ability. Whoever reads it will feel that he has spent his time with a Knight Templar who understands the high purposes of the Order, perceives the best means for their attainment, and, as far as he was able, applied them with a steady hand. He praises where praise is due, and has the moral hardihood to blame where reparable fault is apparent.

His entire review of thirty-two sister jurisdictions commends itself for its able and impartial manner of dealing with every subject; affable and courteous as well as dignified and firm.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir BURTON E. LANGDON, Fort Scott, elected Grand Commander.

Sir JOHN H. BROWN, Wyandotte, re-elected Grand Recorder.



KENTUCKY.

THE thirty-eighth annual conclave was held in the city of Frankfort, commencing May 20, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir BERNARD G. WITT, Grand Commander.

Sir LORENZO DOW CRONINGER, Grand Recorder.

Twenty - three subordinate Commanderies represented.
Eight Past Grand Commanders present.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

His Excellency the governor of Kentucky, Eminent Sir Knight J. Proctor Knott, delivered the address of welcome to the Grand Commandery. It was a very appropriate speech, and gave the Sir Knights assurances that it "was good to be there."

Perhaps if the governor had been before a "Duluth audience" he might have elicited more praise for the words so fitly spoken, but we doubt it "muchly."

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

The following distinguished visitors were announced: Sir Knight Warren LaRue Thomas, V. E. Grand Senior Warden, and representative of the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States, and Sir Knight B. E. Langdon, R. E. Grand Commander of Kansas.

Whereupon Past Grand Commanders Woodruff, Hall and Bassett were detailed to introduce the visiting Sir Knights, who were cordially welcomed by the Grand Commander, and responded in appropriate terms.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander, in opening his address, says:

Another Templar year has gone, and remains now but as a memory. Is it a pleasant memory to you, my brother? We may well each of himself ask this question: What has the year done for me? What have I done in the year that has passed out of existence? Have I wrought in quarries and brought to light any thing that was of value to the Craft, to myself, to humanity? In traversing the path of life, have I added my testimony to the almighty force and importance of truth? Can I recall the memory of any weary, wayworn traveler whom I have befriended, to whom I have whispered words of comfort or encouragement; or, when such a one came across my pathway, have I passed by on the other side? Have I assisted any poor and weary pilgrim, fed the hungry, clothed the naked, bound up the wounds of any broken-hearted brother-man; have I practiced the principles of charity and hospitality, and endeavored to suppress profanity?

These are solemn questions, my brother, and may well be considered in reviewing the year which is closed, and before we enter fully

into the pleasures and festivities which we know await us in this hospitable city. Happy are ye, if, knowing these things, ye have done them.

The year has been uneventful; peace and harmony have prevailed throughout all our borders. No question has been submitted to me for an official decision but that could have been left unasked by a simple reference to the Code of Statutes.

The most important of these are as follows:

OBJECTION TO CONFERENCE OF ORDERS.

QUESTION—Is it sufficient for a member of a Commandery to inform the Eminent Commander, verbally, that he objects to the conference of the Orders on a Companion who has been elected to receive them, or should the objection be reduced to writing, and become the property of the Commandery?

ANSWER—There is no question as to the right of a Knight Templar to object to the conference of the Orders on a Companion who has been elected to receive them, and it does not matter whether the Sir Knight objecting was present at the election or not. This is a right which is recognized alike in the Blue Lodge, Chapter, and Commandery. If you deprive a Mason of this right, you at once destroy one of the highest prerogatives of Masonry, and the inevitable result would be the destruction of the Order. And no one has a right to question the motive or reason which prompts the objection. It simply has the same effect as a black-ball when the candidate is balloted for. I think the proper time and place to make the objection is in open Commandery.

METAL BUTTONS.

QUESTION—Is there any enactment of the Grand Commandery requiring the Eminent Commander to wear two rows of buttons on his uniform coat?

ANSWER—The Statutes of the Grand Encampment, as interpreted by the Grand Commandery of Kentucky, declare that the buttons shall be metal, but fail to specify how they shall be worn. By common consent, and universally, with perhaps one or two exceptions, the three first officers in the Kentucky Commanderies wear them in two rows, as on coats of military officers of like grade.

JURISDICTION.

On the question of jurisdiction the Grand Commander says:

Some of the country Commanderies complain that it is unjust to grant the city Commanderies concurrent jurisdiction over candidates

residing within a prescribed limit, and to deny them the same privilege. This is not altogether an idle complaint; it is based upon the principles of justice and right; and I ask you if the best interests of the Order are to be subserved by denying to the Commanderies the right to confer the Orders upon candidates who possess all other necessary qualifications, except residence within a certain limit, and to deny to good men and true the benefits of our Order conferred by those with whom their relations, both of a business and social nature, are most intimate, and in a Commandery easy and convenient of access, and compel them to either forego the benefits to be derived from the Orders of Christian Knighthood, or else receive them at the hands of strangers and in an Asylum which they can seldom visit without serious inconvenience and loss of time? And does it add anything to the influence or power for good of a Commandery to receive members who are in a sense forced to come to them?

I am satisfied that much good material is lost to us by this law of exclusive jurisdiction, and am thoroughly convinced that it should be at least modified. I trust that you will give this important subject the consideration which it deserves.

As an instance of the lack of knowledge of the plainest laws which govern our Order—laws so old and universal that they might with propriety be designated landmarks—I received a communication from the Eminent Commander of one of our oldest and best Commanderies, requesting me to obtain from the Grand Commander of a neighboring jurisdiction permission to confer the Orders on a Companion residing within the jurisdiction of one of the Subordinate Commanderies of that jurisdiction, and upon my refusal to comply with this request, because of the law which forbade it, I received several letters from officers and members of the Commandery urging me to grant their request. Among other communications upon this subject, was one from an adjoining State, asking for a dispensation from me to confer the Orders on a Companion residing within the jurisdiction of one of our Commanderies. My uniform answer to all of these requests was, that the Commandery in whose jurisdiction the petitioner resided alone had power to waive that jurisdiction.

I refer thus fully to this matter with the hope that, for the sake of my successors in office, Commanderies will inform themselves as to what the powers of the Grand Commander are, before preferring their requests.

The committee on jurisprudence, on this same subject, offered the following resolution, which, under the rule, lays ever:

Resolved, That Section 17 of the Statutes and Regulations be amended by adding after the words "in whose jurisdiction the Companion resides, but such consent shall not be refused except upon the grounds of moral unfitness in the person so applying."

POET LAUREATE.

The Grand Commander thus refers to our good friend and true and courteous Sir Knight, Rob Morris, and we truly echo the sentiment "a right royal honor, most worthily bestowed."

I suppose that every Kentucky Mason takes a just pride in the honor that has been conferred upon one of our oldest Past Eminent Commanders. I refer to the crowning of Brother Rob. Morris, in New York, as "Poet Laureate of Freemasonry"—a right royal honor, most worthily bestowed.

ADMONITION.

He addresses the following words of kindly admonition to the representatives:

Permit me, Sir Knights, you who are before me to-day, to suggest that upon you, more perhaps than all other influences combined, devolves the responsibility for the condition of our beloved Order in the year which lies just before us. You, as Commanders and Officers, have duties incumbent upon you which can be performed by no one else. Upon your energy and zeal, tempered with prudence and discretion, depend the issues of the Templar year upon which we have entered. If you are careless in the performance of the duties laid upon you by your vow of office, rest assured that your Commandery will not be slow to follow your example, and may become inoculated with a disease and enter upon a decline that may require years to heal, and which may possibly end in death.

Then, Sir Knights, for the honor of Knighthood, if you love the Order and would see her principles prevail, her cords lengthened and her stakes strengthened, be faithful and true, earnest and zealous in season and out of season; then "shall peace be within thy walls and prosperity within thy palaces."

RESOLUTION.

The following resolution was offered by Sir Knight Thomas McLaughlin:

Resolved, That the Representative of this Commandery to the Grand Commandery of Kentucky be and is hereby instructed to offer

at the meeting of said Grand Body, in May next, a resolution asking from the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States an official interpretation of the words "appropriate trimmings," in the first paragraph of the Regulations of the Grand Encampment relating to Templar uniform; also whether he considers metal buttons a part thereof.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir Charles A. Woodruff presents, as in years past, the report on correspondence; able, courteous and impartial, it ranks with the foremost. Thirty-three jurisdictions, including Michigan for 1884, are reviewed.

CALIFORNIA.

Under his review of California, he quotes a resolution offered by some over-zealous Sir Knight, about the kind of Scottish Rite Mason that only is fit to be a Knights Templar, and says:

We are gratified at this exhibition of good sense, independence, and prudence by the Grand Commandery of California. It is no affair of Knights Templar which of the numerous organizations claiming to confer the "higher grades" (as they term them) is the oldest, or the best, or the wealthiest, or the largest, or the most legitimate. A Knight Templar possesses the indefeasible right to join any society or organization that he may choose to, provided that it is not a clandestine Lodge, Chapter, or Commandery. He cannot be restrained or prevented from connecting himself with a body or bodies that "certain persons" have pronounced "irregular," for the sufficient reason that he is promised from the beginning that he shall assume no *Templar* obligation that will conflict with those of a social, political, or religious nature. Should he become innocently "beguiled" into the wrong shop for a "nominal sum," his resource is to go the rounds with "real sums" until his conscience is satisfied, his purse depleted and his fame illustriously assured.

A Knight Templar has lawful knowledge of the legitimacy of such degrees and Orders as he is possessed of under the requirements of the Grand Encampment, U. S. A., and none others. No Templar organization has the right to legislate upon matters beyond its province and knowledge; and a Grand Commandery of Knights Templar could as justly order its constituency not to join a fire company as to assume to determine the legitimacy of any outside, so-called "Masonic" organiza-

tion, and forbid the Templars of its jurisdiction to exercise their own private judgment and good sense. The idea of such a preposterous "regulation" is a reflection upon the intelligence, and an insult to the manhood of every sincere and earnest Knight Templar. More than four-fifths of the members of the Templar Order are in blissful ignorance of the "secrets" in the possession of any of the innumerable "rites" that are clamoring for patrons, and emulating—

"Katterfelto with his hair on end
At his own wonders—wondering for his bread."

Words of wisdom fitly spoken.

CONNECTICUT.

Under Connecticut, he gives in full their "what-is-it proclamation," about H. L. Palmer and Albert Pike being "high king bees" in something, and comments upon it as follows:

WHEREAS, This Grand Commandery recognizes no degrees in Masonry except those conferred under the regulations of the recognized Grand Lodges of the various States and Territories of the United States and the Governments throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, It admits the following named organizations to be regular and duly constituted Masonic Bodies, namely: The General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States, the Grand Royal Arch Chapters of the several States and Territories of the United States, and the Royal Arch Chapters and other Bodies under their jurisdiction; the Grand Councils of Royal and Select Masters of the several States and Territories of the United States, and the Councils under their jurisdiction; the Grand Encampment of the United States, and the Commanderies under their jurisdiction; the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the Northern and Southern Jurisdictions of the United States, of which H. L. Palmer and Albert Pike are the M. P. Grand Commanders, respectively, and the various bodies under their jurisdictions.

Any Knight Templar in this jurisdiction who shall confer, communicate, or sell; or assist in conferring, communicating, or selling; or solicit any one to receive or apply for any Masonic degree or degrees limited to Freemasons not hereinbefore recognized or admitted, shall be liable to expulsion from the rights and privileges of Knighthood.

If the Order of the Temple should find any of its "rights and privileges" endangered or usurped by any organization "not hereinbefore mentioned," then there would be a cogent reason for the adoption

of some such measures as the above. In the absence of an attempt from any quarter to derogate from the authority of the Templar Order, or to institute any sort of rivalry, such regulations become utterly ridiculous, undignified, truckling and fulsome.

The only proper explanation of such a bare-faced attempt to restrict the positive judgment of Templars in a matter of which more than nine-tenths of them are entirely ignorant, is made plain by the following language of a 32° Scottish Rite member:

The secret of the Massachusetts innovation is a bold scheme on the part of certain thirty-thirds to get their Bodies of the Ancient, Accepted Scottish Rite legalized and upheld, *and their rivals outlawed*. In brief, they shrewdly made the Grand Lodge "the cat's-paw to pull their chestnuts out of the fire." Ostensibly the ostracism was against the Rite of Memphis, but secretly against the Cœneanites, and no doubt the leaders of the scheme have, ever since its success, exulted secretly that the Grand Lodge so readily and completely dropped into their trap.

JOHN W. BROWN.

In the Correspondence Report to the Grand Lodge of Illinois, p. ccl, 1884.

In the same report, Brother Theo. T. Gurney (who possesses all the degrees in both the York and Scottish Rites) gives a list of *thirty-seven* of the most important of the multitude of rites, and in his customary thorough style vigorously condemns such practices as the above action of the Grand Commandery of Connecticut. He presents a table of statistics which shows "that less than twenty-three per cent. of the Craft know anything about the Chapter; that less than eleven per cent. know anything of the Commandery, and that less than *two* per cent. know anything of the Scottish Rite degrees." What a little stump of a tail is trying to wag the dog!

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

He quotes the following from Sir Knight John J. Bell, of New Hampshire, in his (Bell's) review of Vermont:

All other rites, degrees, orders, or by whatever name they may be called, which profess to be Masonic, exist by the permission, expressed or implied, of the Grand Lodges.

Nothing is clearer than the right of Grand Lodges to prohibit every Mason under their obedience from receiving or adhering to either while they remain Masons.

And sets forth his ideas in the following clear and comprehensive manner:

A Grand Lodge "is the only true and legitimate source of Masonic authority, and it has the inherent power to determine all Masonic matters." It, therefore, follows that a Grand Lodge has full control and

sway over everything whatever appertaining to legitimate Masonry, and from its decisions, rulings, and commands, there is no appeal, hence it is alone supreme in its jurisdiction, which comprehends the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason. These degrees, and these alone, contain and express all that is legitimate, right, and proper to acknowledge as Free and Accepted Masonry, because these are the only degrees which the Grand Lodge claims and promulgates, and they must *ipso facto* (the Grand Lodge possessing all Masonic power) contain everything whatever there is, or can be, in true and lawful Masonry.

Any other organization, "professing to be Masonic," is consequently a clandestine body, and could not be recognized by any regular Mason, nor could he under any circumstances lawfully join it.

Hundreds of secret societies and rites have been presented to the favor of a credulous public, professing to perfect the aspirant in almost every department of philosophy, and to invest him with the most potent and wonderful mysteries, but very few of them have survived to the present day, and among those claiming to be of Masonic origin or connection, however meritorious, fascinating and instructive some of them or all of them may be, there seems to exist between each of them a vital struggle for existence, which we truly hope will result in the "survival of the fittest." Master Masons, Royal Arch Masons, and Knights Templar, as such, are entirely in the dark as to what any of these rites teach, and are in utter ignorance of their objects and designs. It is, therefore, beyond any possible authority of grand bodies of Lodges, Chapters, or Commanderies to designate which rite should or must receive the patronage of their members, and an arrogant and preposterous assumption of mistaken authority on the part of such grand bodies to attempt to prohibit their members from connecting themselves with any, or with all the "Rites."

OHIO.

Of the address of the Grand Commander of Ohio he says:

Three pages are devoted to extraneous tribulations under the caption of "Irregular Masonry," wherein the Grand Commander makes an adulatory plea for the Consistory, and arrives at the following inaccurate conclusion:

If irregular, or, as we say in symbolic parlance, if clandestine Masonry, even though it may be classed among the high grades, ever gains a foot-hold in Ohio; if it ever is countenanced to the extent of being recognized as Masonry at all by the regular, already established and recognized Masonic organizations of the State, then, Knights, I fear the usefulness of our Order will receive its death blow.

And pays his respects to Sir Vance and the Ohio Templars as follows:

Therefore, the Grand Commandery or Ohio attaches pains and penalties to any Templar in its jurisdiction who obtains any "high grades" from a different source than the one it so generously advertises and prescribes. At its next annual conclave this legislation will likely be repealed, and then what will be the recompense of the expelled members?

Again: The Grand Commandery of Ohio may endorse, in like manner as before, another rite, and with pains and penalties attached. The succeeding grand conclave may prefer and favor still another rite, and all the while "the members who are in would have to be governed by the majority."

Further: The Grand Commandery of New York might throw its powerful arms around a still different rite, and the Grand Commandery of Colorado thunder anathemas against Templars who should join another than *its* pet rite; and so on through the three and thirty Grand Commanderies, each protecting a different one of some of the innumerable "rites."

We must not lose sight of the fact that there is nothing whatever of Masonry in the Commandery Orders, but the members must be *Free* Masons, in good and regular standing. The only visible "irregular and clandestine Masonry" within the scope of "our sister Southern Jurisdictions," is off color, but to what particular altitude the "coons" have attained, or which rite they do most affect, this deponent knoweth not.

CONCLUSION.

Sir Knight Woodruff concludes his very interesting and highly instructive review as follows:

In summing up the Templar events for 1884, there is presented throughout the present report many features of interest and encouragement; showing a widening sphere of usefulness, a more pronounced success in attaining desirable ends, and a much larger increase of membership than during any former year in the history of the Order. All of these flattering assurances combine to attest the stability of Templar, as well as its importance.

We terminate this our twelfth annual report on correspondence with the good fortune of finding all of the grand bodies present at our roll-call, excepting West Virginia. Louisiana was reviewed in our report of last year.

We desire to reiterate our expression of thanks for the many courtesies extended to us at the hands of our reportorial *fratres*, and now bring our present congenial labors to a close by wishing for them and theirs, and all others of the Templar Order, "that they shall be confirmed and strengthened in all goodness, and brought to everlasting life."

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir JAMES M. SAFFELL, Frankfort, elected Grand Commander.

Sir LORENZO Dow CRONINGER, Covington, re-elected Grand Recorder.

At a late date we are in receipt of a circular announcing the death of Sir John K. Lake, Grand Prelate of this jurisdiction. The Grand Commander deeply deplores his loss, and says of him:

He was greatly devoted to our Order, and was an earnest, active worker in the ranks, as well as in the stations of honor and trust accorded him. His career was made brilliant by labor well done; his life was a joy to those immediately associated with him; his death a sorrow we cannot measure. The lesson of his life is that earnest action, continuous labor, are the key to success and the road to honor.

"He who in life's battle doth firmly stand,
Shall bear hope's tender blossoms into the silent land."

As a token of respect to his memory, this order will be read at the head of the Hines at the first stated conclave after its reception, and for sixty days thereafter the usual emblems of mourning will be displayed in each Commandery, and worn by the officers of the Grand Commandery, and of each subordinate Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction.

LOUISIANA.

THE twenty-third annual conclave was held in the city of New Orleans, commencing February 12, A. D. 1886, A. O. 768.

Sir A. L. ABBOTT, Grand Commander.

Sir RICHARD LAMBERT, (P. G. C.,) Grand Recorder.

Four subordinate Commanderies represented. Eleven Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

In his address the Grand Commander says:

But little work has been done in the jurisdiction, which presents just cause to fear that a proper interest is not taken in the welfare of the Order. It is greatly to be hoped that more life will be infused in the several asylums the coming year, especially as it is our Triennial year, and I would recommend that this Grand Commandery, during this session, make suitable arrangements, or formulate a plan, so that all the Sir Knights in this jurisdiction can attend in a body the coming triennial, to be held in St. Louis, Missouri, next September, if they feel disposed to do so.

He gives a full statement of the "doings" during the year.

"THAT DIFFICULTY."

The feature of the proceedings of this jurisdiction is the condensed report submitted by the committee on correspondence, covering comments made by writers on correspondence on the "Maryland-Louisiana difficulty," so-called. The committee say, in opening:

It is not in our power to present an elaborate view of these proceedings, and the state of our treasury would not permit the printing of such a report. While there are a great many interesting incidents recorded in this large number of volumes, we have found very few to which it was absolutely necessary that the attention of our fratreis of this jurisdiction should be called, or which are of general interest, but

it has been requested of us, by many of our Sir Knights, that we should collect for their benefit the opinions that have been expressed elsewhere of our action in the unfortunate state of affairs existing between this Grand Commandery and the Grand Commandery of Maryland.

Nothing has been done in the matter by any of our sister Grand Commanderies, and we do not find that it has been alluded to by any of their officers in an official manner, except by Sir Alfred A. Hall, Grand Commander of Vermont, who, in his address at the conclave of 1885, says:

"There is a ripple now and then upon the surface caused by the too caustic hit of a keen reviewer, and the over-sensitiveness of the mark. It has become a dashing wave in one instance, sadly to be regretted. Louisiana, indignant at what many would regard as a joke, has resorted to the severe and ultimate act of declaring non-intercourse with Maryland, because of a pungent expression in its foreign correspondence, and because after disclaiming any insult, it would not retract the words."

But, in the reports on foreign correspondence, it has been freely canvassed in many quarters, while a large number of the "society" content themselves with quotations and expressions of the hope that the difficulty may be adjusted. We present, therefore, simply the opinions of the grand correspondents upon the subject, just as they have rendered them, both of those who sympathize with us, and of those who deem us in the wrong, and we take them up, as usual, in the alphabetical order of the states.

They then quote from the reports of those writers who referred to the subject, which includes what we (the writer) said in 1884, and last of all they quote in full the words of Sir Knight William Tell Adreon, spoken, as it were, almost from the grave, before his Grand Commandery, in April, 1885, as he stood before them steadfastly denying any intent to do harm to Louisiana or her Sir Knights, and freeing his Grand Commandery from all blame. Poor Adreon! good soldier of the cross! we think he was harshly dealt with by our fratres of Louisiana, and we doubt not that they themselves regret that the difficulty had not been long ago healed up, and Sir Adreon not have had it to sorrow over even to the brink of the grave!

What a lesson to us all; may we profit by it, and may the magnanimous words contained in the resolutions, offered by the Sir Knights of Louisiana, tend to blot out every unpleasant remembrance of this unpleasant subject.

We give in full the concluding remarks of the committee, and also the resolutions:

On the report of the committee to whom that was referred, it was ordered that Sir Adreon's report should be spread upon the records of the Grand Commandery, and printed with its proceedings.

Here, indeed, do we recognize the magnanimous and chivalric Templar, and, while gladly accepting the apology so nobly rendered, we mourn and deplore that we were unable to respond before the spirit of our brave frater had ascended to his reward. We have no doubt that every member of the Grand Commandery of Louisiana will feel as we do about this matter, and that we should not hesitate to at once repeal our resolution of non-intercourse with our Companion Sir Knights of Maryland, and we append motions to that effect, and recommend their adoption:

Resolved, That the edict of this Grand Commandery adopted in 1884, suspending all intercourse and correspondence with the Grand Commandery of Maryland, be repealed, and this Grand Commandery accepts "the olive branch of peace" so courteously tendered by the Grand Commandery of Maryland, with hopes that the past may be forgotten and the former friendly relations may be continued as if never interrupted.

Resolved, That this Grand Commandery mingles its tears with those of its sister Grand Commandery of Maryland, over the new-made grave of R. E. Sir William Tell Adreon, Past Grand Commander and chairman of the committee on correspondence of Maryland, recognizing in the loss of that eminent frater one not only irreparable to those among whom he moved, but almost equally so to all who knew him or with whom he was thrown in the extensive Knightly intercourse necessarily imposed upon him by the high offices with which he was entrusted; that Sir Adreon was truly a courteous and magnanimous Sir Knight, noble, frank and cordial in all his bearings, none can better testify than his frates of Louisiana. Peace to his ashes.

Resolved, That the Grand Commander of Louisiana do transmit to the Grand Commandery of Maryland, through her Grand Commander, a copy of these resolutions suitably engrossed, under his hand and the seal of this Grand Commandery.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir A. H. DEPASS, New Orleans, elected Grand Commander.

Sir RICHARD LAMBERT, P. G. C., New Orleans, re-elected Grand Recorder.

MAINE.

THE thirty-fourth annual conclave was held in the city of Portland, commencing May 6, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir Isaac S. Bangs, Grand Commander.

Sir Ira Berry, Grand Recorder.

Fourteen subordinate Commanderies represented. Two Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander opens his address with the following interesting history of Templar Masonry:

The history of Templar Masonry in Maine begins with the formation of *Darien Council of the Knights of the Red Cross*, whose charter, dated May 29, 1806, came from the Grand Encampment of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

The Council had but little work and feeble following for fifteen years, when, in 1820, an application was made to the same source for a charter for an Encampment of Knights Templar and the appendant Orders.

This was granted as of March 17, 1821, with Solomon Sias as Grand Commander, under the name of Maine Encampment, No. 1, and was stationed at Portland.

For eight years a fair degree of interest seems to have been manifested, and then, for sixteen years, or from 1829 to 1845, it was dormant. Re-organization was effected soon after the period of Masonic persecution, with Samuel Fessenden as Grand Commander.

In 1847, it was transferred to the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment of the United States; and in 1854, its charter was given to the Templars in the Kennebec Valley, and was stationed at Gardiner.

Portland Encampment, No. 2, and St. John's Encampment, No. 3, were chartered respectively in 1847 and 1850.

In 1852, these three Encampments met in the court house, in this city, and organized this grand body, under the title of "The Grand Encampment of Maine," and elected Charles B. Smith as "Grand Master." It was not till 1857 that these designations were changed.

Exclusive jurisdiction was then granted to each Commandery in the place of its location, and concurrent jurisdictions in all other places.

This is the thirty-fourth annual Encampment of this grand body. A whole generation has come and gone since its charter was granted, and of its original membership but three remain.

DECISIONS.

The following decisions were made during the year:

QUESTION.—A by-law of a Commandery makes its annual dues payable August 1, one year in advance. A member whose dues are paid to August 1, 1884, asks for a dimitt November 1 following, and tenders three months' dues. Is he entitled to dimitt?

ANSWER.—He is. The payment of dues up to date of his application not only entitles him to a dimitt, but absolves him from the payment of further dues until the dimitt is issued.

Neither the Commandery nor the Recorder has any *power* to refuse. Grand Master Hurlbut says: "We *ask* for that which may be granted or refused. We *demand* that which is ours by right, and which *cannot* be refused."

QUESTION.—After a ballot has been had on the petition of a rejected candidate for permission to take his Orders elsewhere, and the ballot declared "clear," can that vote be reconsidered by secret ballot or otherwise?

ANSWER.—No.

The waiver of jurisdiction is fully consummated by the ballot, and hence it would be idle to attempt to resume it.

No secret ballot can be reconsidered.

The constitution of the Grand Encampment directs how balloting for candidates for membership, for the Orders, or for waiver of jurisdiction shall be done, and these are not "questions" under section fifty.

If such vote is an "open question" it can be amended or postponed indefinitely, as well as reconsidered. It does not come under the provision relating to "objection after ballot," for it is not a question of conferring the Orders, but of permitting another Commandery to determine that question.

The statutes declare that a "petition of one rejected cannot be renewed until at least six months after such rejection, and a candidate is rejected *as soon as the ballot is declared*."

QUESTION.—How long after a favorable ballot does objection hold good?

ANSWER.—Objection *after* ballot is equivalent to an objection by

ballot, and holds good for six months and no longer. Objection to the advancement of a Red Cross Knight holds good for six months and no longer, and the money paid for advancement should be returned.

The committee on jurisprudence submitted their report on the above decisions as follows, and the same was adopted:

The second and third decisions of the R. E. Grand Commander are approved, and we recommend that the same be adopted.

From the first decision of the R. E. Grand Commander we are compelled to dissent. In our opinion, when the by-laws of a Commandery make its annual dues payable in advance upon a day certain, the full yearly dues become due and payable upon that day; and a member who neglects to pay upon that day, is in arrears for his full yearly dues, and is not entitled to a dimit until such yearly dues are paid in full.

SUGGESTIONS.

The Grand Commander offers the following suggestions to his Grand Commandery:

In the light of further experience and of careful consideration, I am more than ever convinced that a modification of our jurisdictional limits is not only advisable, but practicable and wise.

I would again suggest a change in our regulations to conform to the original plan, giving exclusive jurisdiction in places where Commanderies are located, and concurrent jurisdiction over all other places where no Commandery is stationed. The laws of trade practically govern candidacy and membership, and no companion ought to be compelled to go among strangers to secure the Orders, or go without.

I would also suggest a liberal remuneration to E. Sir Stephen Berry, our indefatigable chairman of fraternal correspondence. I am sure his task will be no *less* a labor of love, but it is a heavy burden upon his time and brain, that while it receives our grateful appreciation, should have adequate compensation.

It has long been a matter of complaint on the part of Sir Knights, members and representatives of this grand body, that we do give time enough to its deliberations. It is a just complaint.

We have our stereotyped meeting, change our officers every two years, listen to grand officers' reports, refer them, and while the reports are being considered, election is proceeded with.

Here the interest culminates; one by one the Sir Knights retire, and finally, a corporal's guard only are left to install the officers and finish the business.

This is no fancy picture. The fact is, the Sir Knights who are

interested in the meetings of the other grand bodies are worn out and satiated with Masonic pabulum.

The business of this Grand Commandery cannot be properly done in three hours! It should be divorced from the other grand bodies, and moved out of Portland occasionally; placed on wheels for a term of years, where, in places like Lewiston, Waterville, Bangor or Bath, it can have a day and a night for more dignified deliberation, exemplification and discussion of the work, and requiring every Sir Knight in attendance to wear his regalia. Sir Knights, our laxity in discipline is contagious and demoralizing.

CONCLUSION.

He concludes his address as follows:

This, to me, is a day of sadness and of gladness.

Of sadness, because I know that the six years of my official life and duties in this Grand Commandery are to end *here and now*; that the honors of the years have borne fruit which I have tasted with satisfaction; "apples of gold," which no pleasing anticipations can ever reproduce; that the cares, with the years, have whitened my hair for that harvest, when I must say to the Great Reaper, "Behold my sheaves!"

Of gladness, for the friendships here formed that will outlast my life. For the assurance these afford that I have not been unfaithful to the trust reposed in me.

I retire from this, the highest office in your gift, with the liveliest pride and the profoundest gratitude for your assistance, favor and support, and return to you my jewel untarnished.

With our lengthening years come infirmities, then thought of dissolution, the dawning of a new hope, of the sunlight of a new day; of that blissful, endless life that brings rapture, and love, and peace to us all.

Let us merit such reward by our lives. Let us bear in mind the lessons of Templar Masonry; the precepts of our Master; emulate his character by being gentle, true and faithful, tender in thought and action, yet inexorable in insisting upon that standard of love and duty which we are to follow.

TACTICS.

The following is published by the committee on tactics:

Your committee, to whom was referred the matter of determining the stations of the different officers, as noted in the opening ceremonies of Council and Commandery, beg leave to report.

They recommend no change in opening the Council of R. C., and the following reading in open Commandery:

Senior Warden's Station.—* * * On the right or in front of the first division when separately formed, and on the right of the Commandery when formed in line.

Junior Warden's Station.—* * * On the left or in front of the second or rear division when separately formed, and on the left of the Commandery when formed in line.

Standard Bearer's Station.—* * * In the center of the Standard Guard or central division.

Sword Bearer's Station.—* * * On the right of the Standard Guard, and on the right or in front of the central division.

Warder's Station.—* * * On the left of the Standard Guard or central division.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir Stephen Berry presents the report on correspondence. It is kind, fraternal and courteous, and, being the handiwork of Stephen Berry, it could be nothing else; he could be neither unkind or uncourteous: it is not in him. He reviews thirty-three grand jurisdictions, Michigan for 1884 being among the number. Like all other reports on correspondence from this jurisdiction, Brother Berry gives much information in a statistical table, and also a very interesting account of the origin of the Order, which we give in full:

DEAR BROTHER BERRY:

TOEQAY, ENGLAND, February 7, 1885.

I have carefully read the reports by you in the proceedings for Maine re Knight Templary 1880-4, for which I am much obliged, they being so racy and good.

I quite agree with you in maintaining that the Knight Templar degree should be connected with what is known as the "York Rite," but more correctly the "English Rite," the former having ceased late last century, and left no representatives. I allude to these matters in my last work, entitled "Origin of the English Rite of Freemasonry," which is commanding a rapid sale, the edition being limited to 500 copies.

How the members of St. Andrews' Lodge, Boston, U. S. A., got hold of the K. T. in 1769, we know not, and I much fear we never shall. There are no records of Scottish Templary, or indeed of British or Irish Templary, until ten years later than the records of St. Andrews' Royal Arch Chapter of 1769, which evidently then included the K. T. as the last of the "four degrees of Royal Arch Mason," viz: "Excellent, Super-Excellent, Royal Arch, and the K. T." At York, until the collapse of the Grand Lodge of all England in 1792, the K. T. was the fifth of the series, the Royal Arch being the fourth, and the other three of the series, the first three of the Craft degrees. The oldest notice of the degree at York is 1779, and at

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Bristol there is the curious charter of compact 1780, a copy of which I give in my last new work, which has never been printed or published before.

The certificate of 1783, issued by the "South Carolina Encampment," is a most remarkable document, especially as it refers to the "Red Cross," as well as the K. T. I know of no such certificate in this country which unites the Red Cross with the K. T. We had a "Red Cross" last century, but it was independent of the K. T., and known as the "Red Cross of Rome and Constantine," to which later on H. R. H. the Duke of Sussex belonged, and of which Grand Secretary White was the Grand Recorder. The same degree is still worked, as you well know.

I have been much interested in the illustrations in Grand Master Dean's report to the Grand Encampment of 1883, and believe there are no such certificates to be found in this country, as respects the connection between the Red Cross and Templar degrees.

I presume the nearest degree to the former is that worked under the Grand Chapter of Scotland [R. A.] which, however, was not constituted until 1817-8.

My opinion is, that the K. T. and similar degrees, were arranged to provide for Christian Freemasonry being worked, as well as that of the universal Craft. This is also Brother Carson's view, and I think it the most likely of all the explanations propounded; though I do not think that as a degree it was so formed under the Masonic wing until about twenty years after the Royal Arch was first worked, say about 1738 for the latter, and 1758-60 for the former, or probably later.

As to the rituals, there was little uniformity, because unrecognized, and the Grand Encampment of Dun Merley did not possess much influence.

Still, I believe the Royal Arch, as you and we have it, and also the K. T., originated in Great Britain and Ireland, from whence America derived it, and took to it even more warmly than its originators.

Yours fraternally and truly,

W. J. HUGHAN.

His opinion will go far to establish connection of the Order with Craft Masonry, and not with the Scottish rite.

He also shows quite clearly that our branch of the Order is the eldest. For although it probably came from Great Britain, it was adopted here in its primitive shape in 1769, while in England it was not regularly worked until ten years later, and was there allowed to vary widely from the original. We are inclined to think that it was owing to our keeping the Order in its original simplicity that it has so flourished with us.

Sir Knight Carson's testimony, quoted under Ohio, shows that our ritual is nearer the Dunkerly ritual than the present English or Canadian, and no doubt the change had also been going on from 1779 to 1790.

How St. Andrew's Lodge got the Orders, we think may be answered by an extract from Brother Henry J. Parker's "Army Lodges during the Revolution:"

The Lodges attached to the 14th and 29th Royal Regiments took part in the formation of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge in 1769, and furnished the two Wardens, Gen. Warren being the Grand Master."

If we can find where those regiments had been previous to 1769, we shall probably find whence the Orders came.

On this point Brother Hughan writes us at a later date:

"It is possible that the 29th Royal Regiment hailed from Ireland. In fact very *probable*, as respects the warrant for its Lodge. I have searched carefully, but cannot report *aught* positive. The Lodge in 29th Regiment, G. Lodge of Ireland, now No. 322 of 1759, does not occur in the lists of 1813 and 1822. Still a *NEW* warrant with an *old* number, when issued by that Grand Lodge, always bears the year of latest origin, so after all, I think it may be taken for granted that No. 322 was the Lodge you refer to re Boston. 322 was 39th Foot in list of 1804, I think an error for 29th. 112 was a military Lodge in list 1804, Ireland.

"As to the 14th Regiment, it had a Lodge under the Atholl Grand Lodge, No. 58, warranted 17th January, 1759, and again reissued 6th March, 1776. Of that there is no doubt. I have done my best to trace these two Lodges as you desired. In 'Pocket Companion,' Dublin, 1783! which is *very early* for such, there are five army Lodges mentioned, viz :

- "12 In the First Battalion Royal.
- 13 In Major General Dalzeel's Regiment of Foot.
- 25 In Colonel Hamilton's Regiment.
- 34 In the Royal Regiment of North British Fusiliers.
- 36 In Major General Price's Regiment of Foot."

Gen. Warren was a member of St. Andrew's Lodge, and his association with the regimental Lodge strengthens the tradition that those Lodges brought in the Templar degrees.

The Red Cross certificate of 1783 is an important factor in the case. It shows that the Red Cross was not borrowed from the Scottish rite, organized nearly ten years later, and gives point to the fact that Red Cross Councils conferring the Temple and Malta seem to have preceded Encampments of Templars. Now that was exactly what we might expect to find in a time when Lodges did their business on the *First* degree, and the Master's Lodge was a different body, with distinct records, but within the bosom of the Entered Apprentice's Lodge.

It also pretty thoroughly controverts the argument of those who assert that the Red Cross is an anomaly and excrescence which should be excised. Its coming in so near the beginning, indicates a reasonable antiquity. Perhaps it was rather connected with the Royal Arch than with the Temple and Malta until taken up on this side of the Atlantic, and, disregarded, was suffered to die on the other.

In this connection, it may be remembered that we inquired of Sir Knight Dartrell, of Canada, in 1882, the status of a Knight Companion in the ancient Orders. He replied that there was no such term. We therefore was left to conclude that the term was introduced in this country. But we have just received a book from Brother Hughan, which gives the full dress of an English "*Knight Companion*." That shows exactly where we got the name, and the plate shows that

the sash and belt are *black!* over a white tunic with a red cross. We notice also that the silver star on the sash is seven-pointed, with a red passion cross and the motto, "*In hoc signo vinces*," such as we formerly wore.

Now we are curious to know whether our Boston Templars of 1769 *dropped* the tunic and mantle, or whether the English *added* them twenty years or more later?

To Grand Prior Moore's claim that Canadian Templary descends from the ancient order, while American is a modern imitation, the plain answer is that he is mistaken; that both descend from the same source; that we differ simply because our ritual and forms are the elder and less changed. And we should not be surprised if we could add the same regarding the costume.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir JOHN O. SHAW, Bath, elected Grand Commander.

Sir IRA BERRY, (of course,) re-elected Grand Recorder.

MARYLAND.

THE fifteenth annual conclave was held in the city of Baltimore, commencing November 24, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir WOODWARD ABRAHAMS, Grand Commander.

Sir CHARLES THOMAS SISCO, Grand Recorder.

Seven subordinate Commanderies represented. Eight Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

Sir Knight Abrahams' address is more than ordinarily interesting, and we quote freely from it. He asks his Sir Knights to join in due acknowledgment to the Supreme Grand Architect, and says:

Before entering upon the responsible duties that will come before us during the sessions of this Grand Body, let us render to the Supreme Grand Architect of the Universe our grateful acknowledgments for all

His goodness and mercy toward us during the past year, and thank our Father which art in heaven most profoundly and sincerely for the health, happiness, peace, prosperity, and harmony that has prevailed in our entire jurisdiction, and invoke His blessing on our deliberations, that we may be able to calmly and dispassionately review the doings of the past year, and provide judicious legislation for the future, so that our noble and beloved Order may prosper in all good word and work, that its evangelizing principles may be disseminated and promote the happiness of the entire Craft, and that all we do and say may redound to the honor and prosperity of Templar Masonry.

He quotes those beautiful lines from Milton, on the creation, and says:

The Creator, designing to bless man's estate on earth, hath opened the hand of His divine benevolence; he hath spread over the world the illumined canopy of heaven, the covering of the tabernacle, and the veil of the temple which were representations of the celestial hemisphere, blue, crimson and purple, emblems of power, goodness, and omnipotence.

And when He said, let your light shine before men, He intended that those clothed with great authority should endeavor to dissipate the moral darkness of their nature, and be able to instruct those over whom they were called to preside, by displaying the virtues of a pure life, and thus leading others by a good example.

There is great propriety and beauty in the metaphors here used, and they may be properly applied to all the officers of Masonic bodies. There is observable, as you are all aware, in human nature, a peculiar proneness to imitation. We assimilate to our associates, imbibe to a certain extent their opinions, and often emulate their conduct. Cicero forcibly observed, "that the reason why we are formed, pleased, and able to admire and appreciate the beauty and regularity of the heavenly bodies was to admonish us to imitate their constancy and order, in the noble beauty of a worthy behavior." While advice or precept make only a temporary impression on the mind, example is a constant and powerful call to imitation, resembles the light of heaven, silent in its operations, but lasting and wonderful in its effect.

As a good picture strikes us more forcibly, and gives a more adequate, real, and impressive idea of the objects represented by it than any description of words could do, so goodness, or excellence of any kind represented by precepts, does not so powerfully move the affections as when we see it fully delineated in a correct walk and pure life. It is the peculiar aim, object, and design of Templar Masonry, as I

understand it, to promulgate by the lives and characters of those, at least, who profess to be teachers, the principles they inculcate, and the integrity of their faith and morals are answerable for the purity of their lives.

It is the usage of the Craft in all countries, at the present time, and has been from the remotest antiquity, that the Book of the Law, the Great Light, which is the Holy Bible, is always spread open upon the Altar in every Asylum; indeed, a Masonic Body cannot be properly organized or opened for business without it. There is in this, as in everything else Masonic, an appropriate Symbol. The Book of the Law is the Great Light of Masonry. Every promise in the Bible is a pearl of inestimable value, of great price. *Faith* makes a chain of pearls out of the promises by which she graces her neck and secures her armor, but Masonry is a thread of gold running through the chain of pearls. To close the Bible or to emasculate its promises, would interrupt the rays of Divine light which emanate from it, and would leave the Body in moral darkness.

IN MEMORIAM.

He alludes feelingly to the death of Past Grand Generalissimo John A. Ives. and says:

It is seldom that we are called upon to record the death of a more estimable young man than the subject of this notice. In all the relations of life, he was most exemplary. One who knew him well says of him, that he was most faithful and conscientious in business, a cultured and refined gentleman, and died lamented by his friends.

In the name of the Grand Commandery of Maryland, we sincerely tender to the bereaved relatives our sympathy and affection. There is no sorrow like unto that which has fallen to their lot. We accept with gratitude and love the expressions of grief and words of comfort that fell from the lips of the reverend gentleman who ministered at his funeral.

The language of the encomiastic pronounced by them was not an idle display of meaningless words, but a solemn and heartfelt acknowledgment of the valuable traits of love and tenderness which conspicuously adorned his character while living. His death was surely life immortal.

DECISIONS.

On decisions, he says:

Harmony, without which there can be no substantial, permanent union, and as harmony is the real strength of all human institutions,

and particularly this of ours, it is gratifying to know that we are dwelling in uninterrupted harmony throughout our entire jurisdiction. Such has been the unanimity of sentiment in all Bodies subordinate to this Grand Body, that not a single question has been submitted to the Grand Commander for his official decision. So note it be always.

GRAND ENCAMPMENT.

We give his ideas of the Grand Encampment of the United States as follows:

There seems to be a growing sentiment inimical to the life of the Grand Encampment of the United States. It is a fact beyond controversy that the body has never measured up to the degree of usefulness expected of it by its originators. It has been troubled with a malarial condition of the stomach, from over-indulgence in costly heterogeneous viands and liquids, that has become chronic, or developed into confirmed malaxation of the brain; hence, a change of regimen is absolutely necessary to bring the Body back to a healthy condition. The first step in this direction would be the total abolition of all banquets, the second would be a similar action in regard to grand parades, the third and most important step would be the same action in regard to the itinerant feature of the organization. This being done, the next and last change necessary, in my judgment, would be to establish a Templar See for the United States, the headquarters of the Grand Recorder at Baltimore, Md., or Washington, D. C., where the Quadrennial Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States would meet, and, without the fuss and feather excitement of parades and drill, attend to the legitimate business of the executive and legislative department of the Order, with a dignity equal to that of the Senate of the United States.

This would necessitate a change from triennial to quadrennial. I would also suggest that the representatives of the Grand Commandery of Maryland to the Grand Encampment at next meeting in St. Louis, be instructed to procure, if possible, such alteration of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment of the United States as will give the State Grand Commanderies entire control of the subject of uniforms and regalia in their own jurisdiction.

Upon reference of that part of the address to the committee on doings of grand officers, they say:

Upon the subject of the Grand Encampment, your committee do not entirely agree with the remarks of the Grand Commander. Your committee believe there should be an abiter upon all mooted questions of difference between Grand Commanderies, and that the Grand

Encampment is the proper Body to adjust such difference, and that if it has not now the power to settle such questions, abundant authority should be given it. They further believe that the itinerant system now followed is not only just to the different Grand organizations, but beneficial to the Order at large, as it gives the members of the Order ample opportunity to form the acquaintance of large numbers of their fraters who would not attend the meetings of the Grand Encampment if always held in one locality.

Your committee further believe that upon the question of uniform there should be uniformity throughout the whole Templar world, and that the uniform should be of the simplest character.

Upon the subject of tactics and drill, your committee believe that, as the Order has become a semi-military organization, a uniform system should be adopted and rigidly adhered to.

ABSENCE OF REPORT.

The Grand Commander thus explains the absence of Maryland's annual report on correspondence:

Sir Knight Past Grand Commander William T. Adreon, chairman of the committee on correspondence, having for a long time been, and is still, suffering from an attack of malaria and nervous prostration, has made it impossible for him to prepare his report on foreign correspondence in time for the present Conclave. I suggested the propriety of turning it over to Sir Knight Past Grand Commander E. T. Schultz, who is one of the committee, and he at once assumed that duty.

Sir Schultz had scarcely entered upon the duty thus assigned him, when from a severe cold he was attacked with a most malignant inflammation of his eyes, which rendered it quite impossible to do the work assigned him. It is therefore only necessary to say that, however unfortunate it may be, and how much disappointment it may occasion, not only to the chairman himself, but to the fifty Grand Commanderies, when they open the book of proceedings, to find Maryland has no report, where they always expect to find a readable synopsis of Templar history. They will miss the criticisms of the votarist Adreon. Hence, the Grand Commandery of Maryland has no report on Correspondence this year.

HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY.

He highly indorses the "History of Freemasonry in Maryland," being prepared by that courteous Knight and able writer, Past Grand Commander Schultz, and says:

It will be completed in four volumes, one of which has been issued, and the second is well under way, and when the work is completed, as it surely will be if the Masons in this jurisdiction will do their duty by purchasing the numbers as fast as they are published, it will contain a concise history of all the Masonic Bodies ever formed in Maryland. It is perfectly safe to say that it will contain more Masonic history, as well as more interesting reading matter, than all the Masonic books ever published in Maryland put together.

SIR ADREON'S ADDRESS.

We give in full the address made by Sir Knight William Tell Adreon before the Grand Commandery, and ask for it a careful reading. It came from the very soul, as it were, of a valiant and magnanimous Sir Knight, one possessed of the moral courage to "dare to do right." He certainly put himself gloriously on the record, and we believe there is not a Sir Knight in Louisiana who does not regret the early taking away of Sir Adreon, before they could, in person, have let him know that personally and collectively they entertained no enmity that they would not have freely forgiven, finding in him, as they did, a corresponding disposition; and we cannot but express our sincere regret, as we did in our review of Louisiana, that the Sir Knights of Louisiana should have allowed any such thing to mar the friendship of so kindly a Knight as William Tell Adreon and the Knights of Louisiana. But for the report:

Since our last assembly, I have been failing in health, until at last I am forced to place in your hands my resignation as chairman of committee on correspondence. I loved the work; I loved the splendid corps of gentlemen who, as the spokesmen of their several jurisdictions, composed the well-known Board of Mutuals. The reading of their reports was to me an intellectual feast that never tired me, but from which I always arose with new ideas, pleasant thoughts, and with renewed energy for and pride in the Grand Order of which we formed a part. As I write, the peculiarities of style, the eloquence of thought, the purity of sentiment and diction, the broad catholicity of spirit, the kindly tone, the warm grasp of the invisible hand, the ringing, hearty laugh and cheering words of that band of true gentlemen and brothers, each and all, one after one, in due order pass like the forms on Banquo's mystic glass.

In bidding them farewell,

"A feeling of sadness comes o'er me
That is not akin to pain,
And resembles sorrow only
As the mist resembles rain."

To you, Sir Knights, who have honored me so long with your friendship, your counsel and assistance, I have no words to express my gratitude and esteem. We have worked side by side together in the days gone by, and that fellowship, that comradeship, whilst working for the advancement of our noble Order, has bound us with hoops of steel each to the other forever and forever!

With the exception of the unfortunate misunderstanding with the Grand Commandery of Louisiana, I leave you with Maryland in knightly accord and fraternal correspondence with every Grand jurisdiction in this country and elsewhere; and permit me here, for the first and last time, to say a word in regard to our relations with Louisiana.

Since writing the words that gave so much offense to our Louisiana fraters, I have never until now spoken or been asked to speak upon the subject. The first communication from them was to Sir Knight Schultz, their representative. He promptly and ably represented the case in the Grand Commandery of Maryland, who at once passed a resolution disclaiming any intention to affront. This was not considered satisfactory, and a resolution was passed by them severing all intercourse between the two jurisdictions. All this could have been avoided by their simply calling my attention to the offensive criticism. It would have been at once recalled, and an assurance given that it did not represent the sentiments of the writer or the grand jurisdiction he represented. But, as I have said above, no request to say one word was made by my Grand Commandery, and certainly none was asked of me by Louisiana.

Frates of Maryland and Louisiana, I do not wish that this should be so. Unsolicited by my Commandery, unasked by the Grand Commandery of Louisiana, I stand between the two jurisdictions and recall the words that gave offense. I intended to affront or wound no Sir Knight of Louisiana; hastily, crudely, the words were thrown together and went forth on their mission of discord and wrath. A word once uttered can never be recalled—but it can be regretted; it can be apologized for. I here do both, and trust that in the future Maryland and Louisiana, forgetting the past, may press forward side by side in advancing the banners of the Temple to still higher and more exalted places, until at last, having put all things under her with intelligence, culture and education for her handmaidens, with bigotry, superstition and

intolerance writhing in mortal wounds at her feet, they may side by side, in that great Armagedon of the future, lift their blood-stained swords and salute the banner of the Temple, flashing and glowing in the sunlight of victory. With these hopes for the future, and believing it to be the grand culmination of all for which the Order of the Temple was instituted, I bid you as your correspondent, dear fratre of Maryland, a "heart-warm, fond adieu."

This communication was referred to a special committee, who submitted the following report and resolution, which was adopted:

The special committee to whom was referred the communication of the chairman of the committee on correspondence, P. G. C. William T. Adreon, respectfully recommends that it be spread upon the records of this Grand Commandery, and printed with its proceedings.

It is but just and proper that the Grand Commandery of Maryland should give expression to the general regret with which his resignation is accepted, he having so faithfully and zealously served this grand body, animated by the courteous and magnanimous spirit which made him a true representative of our Order, having the courage of his opinions, armed with intelligence and wit to assert and defend them; yet gentle of spirit, tender of heart and genial in manner, he has endeared himself to all who knew him, and won the esteem and respect of others.

Your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Grand Commandery of Maryland receive with deep regret the resignation of Past Grand Commander Adreon as chairman of the committee on correspondence, and thank him for the able manner with which he has filled that position, and sincerely hope that his health may be fully restored, and he be preserved to us for many years to come.

Alas for the frailty of man! In less than two weeks from the time all this occurred in the Grand Commandery, our Sir Knight had forever sheathed his sword, and surrendered his soul to the God who gave it, and we doubt not he has been awarded a seat among those who had lived up to the teachings of Templar Masonry here on earth.

We give the kindly words said of him (after his eyes were closed in death) by one who knew him well and was a co-worker with him during life:

WILLIAM TELL ADREON,

Past Grand Commander, Grand Marshal, and chairman of committee on correspondence of the Grand Commandery of Maryland, died December 10, 1885, in the 54th year of his age. Thus the brilliant tapers of our Grand Commandery are extinguished, and none save the High and Holy One can relight them.

That "death loves a shining mark" has again been exemplified, and our Grand Commandery mourns the loss of a true and valiant Knight, whose memory will be cherished in the breasts of his fratreis long after his mortal remains shall have mouldered into dust.

A few short weeks ago William Tell Adreon left a bed of sickness, and with the marks of death even then upon him, appeared at the grand conclave to once more, and, as it happened, for the last time, meet the fratreis he loved so well, and to perform the duties of the offices he had so nobly filled. But even then the silver cord was loosening and the golden bowl breaking; for disease triumphed, and the frailty of the casket permitted our cherished Sir Knight to accomplish but one act—the performance of which was a fitting close to such a career.

It was to make the *amende honorable*, in open Grand Commandery, to our fratreis of Louisiana, for a sentence inadvertently written in one of his reports on correspondence, and no one who was present on that occasion will ever forget the deeply impressive scene.

Supporting himself, on account of weakness, against the desk of the Grand Recorder, Sir Knight Adreon made his last address, the utterance of which caused even the hardest heart to grow soft, and elicited applause from those who had so often greeted the brilliant efforts of "the silver-tongued orator." Thus the bright lights of earth go out and the admired and loved are taken hence while the green tendrils of our friendship are twining fondly around them.

On Sunday, December 13, our lamented frater was borne to his last resting-place in Greenmount cemetery, escorted by hundreds of mourning brethren representing the different branches of Masonry, in all of which he had been prominent as Worshipful Master, High Priest, Eminent Commander, Grand Commander and Grand Commander-in-Chief. The impressive Templar service, in which he had so often participated, was performed by his Commandery, and at its close a deep fog settled like a funereal pall over his grave, and added to the gloom that oppressed the hearts of his many friends.

And as we left him in his cold and silent tomb, we found some consolation in recalling:

"Our dead, O grave, are not thine,
But only in thy keeping
Till the great promised day of retribution."

William Tell Adreon was a man of warm impulse, strong in intellect and large-hearted sympathies, strong in the power to will and the power to do, and when he died his frates felt that a good sword had gone from the battle of life. He was noted for his ability and bold, fearless manner, ever ready to espouse the cause of the assailed, never hesitating to strike and strike boldly when he believed it to be necessary; yet courteous in manner and gentle in disposition. His style and independence as a writer are well portrayed in his admirable reports as chairman of the committee on correspondence of our Grand Commandery; and although his criticisms and comments were at times pointed, yet they were made in the kindest spirit and with no intention of wounding the feelings of any of his frates.

How many there are who will remember William Tell Adreon's brilliant oratorical displays, and quaint humor and anecdote on occasions to which the profane are not admitted, and how sadly he will be missed from the annual gatherings of his Masonic brethren and friends. "We live but to see those we love passing away into the silent land."

The special committee upon the communication from Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and Iowa, submitted a long report on the subject, which we commend to the careful perusal of our Sir Knights, and after setting forth the changes, say:

The Grand Commandery of Maryland, since the date of its charter, has rendered true and loyal obedience and respect to the Grand Encampment of the United States, but at the same time cannot fail to recognize the justness of some of the complaints which appear in the several communications received from sister Grand Commanderies, and believe that some radical changes in the form of amendments to the constitution and code of statutes of the Grand Encampment of the United States to be absolutely necessary; and the committee appointed on these several communications from the Grand Commanderies of Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and Iowa, present the following resolutions, and request their adoption by the Grand Commandery of Maryland:

Resolved. That the laws of the Grand Encampment should be revised and so modified as to embrace general powers only, delegating to Grand Commanderies the right to legislate upon all matters of detail.

Resolved, That such general powers should be vested in the Grand Encampment as may be expressly delegated to it.

Resolved, That the Grand Commanderies, under the general legislation of the Grand Encampment, should be vested with jurisdiction over the subject of uniform and membership.

Resolved, That the Grand Commandery of Maryland recommend that section four, of article one, of the constitution of the Grand Encampment be so amended as to read: "That the first three officers of each Commandery holding its charter immediately from the Grand Encampment, shall be entitled to speak upon any question, when in order, but shall not be entitled to vote thereon."

Resolved, That the representatives of the Grand Commandery of Maryland to the Grand Encampment of the United States, at the next triennial conclave, to be held in the city of St. Louis, Missouri, be instructed to propose and vote for the above resolutions.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir COLUMBUS CLARKE ISAACS, Baltimore, elected Grand Commander.

Sir CHARLES THOMAS SISCO, Baltimore, re-elected Grand Recorder.



MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND.

THE semi-annual conclave was held in the city of Boston on May 27, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir CHARLES C. HUTCHINSON, Grand Commander.

Sir ALFRED F. CHAPMAN, Grand Recorder.

Thirty-four subordinate Commanderies represented. Seven Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander delivered the usual address, devoted to matters of local interest to his jurisdiction.

The special committee on ritual recommended, *with slight modifications*, (italics ours,) the short form Malta work promulgated by the Grand Encampment of the United States.

The communication from the Grand Commandery of New York was referred to a special committee.

ANNUAL CONCLAVE.

The annual conclave was held in the city of Boston, commencing October 28, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir CHARLES C. HUTCHINSON, Grand Commander

Sir ALFRED F. CHAPMAN, Grand Recorder.

Forty subordinate Commanderies represented. Twelve Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander's address is a very practical, business paper. We quote some interesting statistics from it:

The average attendance upon our annual conclaves for the past ten years has been 184, classified as follows: Grand Officers, 15; Past Grand Officers, 9; Past Commanders, 43; Commanders, 25; Generalissimos, 16; Captains-General, 11; Proxies, 15.

According to our last printed proceedings, the whole number of votes in the Grand Commandery is 408, namely: Grand Officers, 16; Past Grand Officers, 16; Past Commanders, 256; Officers of Commanderies, 120.

You will notice that 56 per cent. of our Past Grand Officers, 15 per cent. of the Past Commanders, 62½ per cent. of the Commanders, 40 per cent. of the Generalissimos, and 27½ per cent. of the Captains-General have composed our annual attendance. My knowledge of the several Commanderies justifies the remark that those whose officers punctually attend to this duty are in the most favorable condition. They have a large attendance upon their conclaves, and their officers perform their duties promptly and intelligently, in close conformity to the ritual, and their members are zealously active and interested. The opposite of this may be said of those Commanderies whose officers neglect this duty. It is a right of every Commandery to demand, and it should demand, of its officers scrupulous attention to this duty. My thought is that no Knight should accept either of the first three offices in a Commandery unless he intends to be present at all of the conclaves of this Grand Body. He owes this to his Commandery, to the officers associated with him, and to himself; and by being present he acquires information, ideas, and methods which qualify him for his high station, also more interest and greater zeal in his work which he imparts, oftentimes unconsciously, to his companions.

MALTA RITUAL.

On the Malta ritual promulgated by the Grand Encampment of the United States, he says:

Inasmuch as this Grand Commandery has not adopted either form *as promulgated*, I have not felt justified in ordering the copies to be distributed. They are in the custody of the Grand Recorder, subject to your order.

I suggest that they be returned to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment.

I further suggest that the Grand Recorder be authorized to have transcribed into our book of rituals the ritual as adopted by you in May last.

No uncertain sound in the above remarks of the Grand Commander. It is a regular knocking the chip off the shoulder business, a kind 'er "Boston tea party."

DECISIONS.

The following is quoted from that part of the Grand Commander's address which refers to decisions:

"(1.) When a Knight Templar has been expelled from all his rights and privileges as a Master Mason, and afterwards restored to said rights and privileges by the Grand Lodge, is he thereby restored to membership in the Commandery of which he was a member prior to his expulsion?"

"(2.) If so, must the Commandery receive him into its Asylum, either as a visitor or a member, before receiving official notice of his restoration?"

Art. 5, Sec. 2, of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts is as follows: "Whenever the Grand Lodge shall restore to rights and privileges of Masonry an expelled or suspended brother, he shall not thereby be restored to membership within the Lodge of which he was a member without its unanimous consent."

Art. 3, Sec. 3, of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island is as follows: "Whenever the Grand Lodge shall reverse or abrogate the decision of a subordinate Lodge or of the Commissioner of Trials, suspending or expelling a brother, and shall restore him to the benefits and privileges of Masonry, without ordering a new trial, he shall not thereby be restored to membership in the Lodge from which he was suspended or expelled, without its unanimous consent."

The Digest of Masonic Law of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, under the title, Expelled Masons, reads: "The expulsion terminated the membership, and the restoration does not renew it. The brother must apply for membership as though he had never been a member."

Art. 17, Sec. 10, of the Code of Statutes of the Grand Encampment of the United States, reads: "When the suspension or expulsion from the Commandery was the result of suspension or expulsion by Lodge or Chapter, a certificate of his restoration in the Body which disciplined him will restore the Knight to good standing and membership."

The action of the Grand Lodge did not restore the Knight to membership in his Lodge, and I have no knowledge that he has been reinstated therein.

I decided, first, that restoration by the Grand Lodge does not restore a Knight to membership in the Commandery. To acquire this, he must, *under the code*, present a certificate of his restoration in the Body which disciplined him; second, that until officially informed of his restoration to his Masonic rights and privileges, a Commandery should not admit him into its Asylum. The Grand Lodge certificate of the fact would be official information, and entitle the holder thereof to visit a Commandery under the rule governing the admission of visitors.

You will observe that, *under the code*, just quoted, Lodges and Chapters have the power of determining who shall be members of our subordinate Commanderies. Surely a most extraordinary power, one never conceded to them in this jurisdiction, and in direct conflict with our laws and practice. At the annual conclave of this Grand Commandery, held October 25, 1861, a report of a committee was adopted, in which was the following: "Subordinate Encampments have full control over the matter of membership."

The doctrine here laid down is that, when a Knight loses his membership in a Commandery, he can be reinstated therein only by the consent of the members thereof; that no other body or power, neither a Lodge or Chapter, the Grand Lodge, the Grand Commandery, nor the Grand Encampment of the United States can interpose and say to a Commandery, you must reinstate him to membership whether you wish to or not. To adopt any other rule or doctrine, would imperil the harmony and usefulness of our subordinates, and be fatal to the best interests of the Order.

I have no wish, indeed it might not be deemed delicate or proper for me, to comment upon the Code of Statutes of the Grand Encampment of the United States. The best I can say of it is that it is very incongruous. It seems to be, for the most part, a compilation of decisions made by the several Grand Masters of the Grand Encamp-

ment, on questions proposed by Commanderies holding immediately under it. It is to be regretted that it does not conform more closely to the well defined principles of Masonic law of this jurisdiction. It seems to me that we should call the attention of the Grand Encampment to this fact, and ask it to examine and revise the Code, in order that this Grand Commandery may be relieved from the embarrassments under which it labors; and further, that we should instruct our representatives in that Grand Body to use all the means at their command to have the Constitution amended by inserting, in substance, the following: No change in the Constitution interfering with the powers of State Grand Commanderies, or adding to the powers of the Grand Encampment, shall be made, until such change shall have been approved by a majority of the State Grand Bodies; and no decision of the Grand Master upon questions of Templar law, except upon the construction and interpretation of the Constitution, shall be held to apply within the jurisdiction of any State Grand Commandery, until the same shall have been approved by it.

I am clearly of the opinion that this Grand Commandery is the supreme Templar authority in the States of Massachusetts and Rhode Island; that in it alone is vested the right and duty to superintend and govern all Commanderies of Knights Templar and the Appendant Orders within its jurisdiction.

NEXT TRIENNIAL.

The Grand Commander draws attention to the next triennial conclave, and says:

We were informed in San Francisco in 1883, by Knights from Missouri, that a large sum had already been guaranteed to provide entertainment to visiting Templars during the conclave; therefore we may expect that the display of nodding plumes, rich paraphernalia and glittering appointments, will exceed anything we have ever seen; in comparison with which the displays at Chicago in 1880, and at San Francisco in 1883, will be as nothing; that "it will be a grand demonstration of the strength and character of Knight Templarism in the United States." It may be so, but I think you will agree with me that the grandest demonstration of Knight Templarism, as we know it and teach it, is not witnessed in the martial tread of hosts, the prancing of foaming steeds, and the flutter of silken banners, but that its strength and character are demonstrated in a way far removed from this; in a manner more quiet and less ostentatious, exemplifying more truly its highest aims and purposes, and more in accordance with the thoughts of many who understand and appreciate its beauties and privileges.

Have we not had enough of marching and countermarching? and

is it not time to call a halt, and devote more time and thought to the business of the conclave?

It seems to me that the Grand Encampment should have an abiding place, a permanent home, where its conclaves can be held and its business conducted, undisturbed by extraneous influences.

The committee on the New York regulations submitted their report and recommendations, which are an endorsement of the action taken by New York.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir Knight Chapman writes the report on correspondence, which is exceedingly kind and fraternal.

In his opening, he says:

The Reports on Foreign Correspondence made to the several Grand Commanderies vary in length, but in other respects they are modelled after a common plan, the principal feature of which is a review of the proceedings of each Grand Commandery, for the most part in alphabetical order, wherein the reviewer passes judgment upon them in such manner as seems to him proper.

Your committee is sensible of the fact that this Grand Body authorized the appointment of a committee on correspondence with limitations, and without the intention of encouraging the committee to make such lengthy reports as are acceptable, indeed it may almost be said expected, in other jurisdictions.

The report of 1884 has received enough of favorable notice to be flattering to your committee, but coupled with the wish that it had been longer.

The reason for its brevity, herein given, will, it is hoped, prevail with correspondents to believe that internal economy, and not indifferences, dictates that this report must also be kept within bounds corresponding to those of its only and immediate predecessors.

MICHIGAN.

Michigan, for 1885, has kindly mention and a synopsis is given of our doings.

Regarding our ruling on granting a dimit to a Sir Knight of unsound mind, on a written request from his guardian, he says:

This is a novel question, and, as far as we know, without precedent. The decision does not say how such an one can be released, but we do

not imagine that dues would be charged against him until he might be discharged for non-payment. We incline to the opinion that if a request should be made by a guardian recognized in law, it should be treated as if made by the Sir Knight.

We, of course, differ from Sir Chapman. Our constitution provides that a Sir Knight may become dimitted, but it must be at his own request and in writing. You might as well admit a person to the Order upon an application made by a third person. Guardianship, in law, never contemplated such acts, and we believe Michigan sound on this matter.

We quote from Sir Chapman on certain subjects embraced in his report:

INVASION OF TERRITORY.

Some of the Grand Commanders have spoken against the custom of asking consent of the Grand Commander of one jurisdiction for a Subordinate Commandery of another to visit in or pass through the particular territory. The Grand Commander of Connecticut speaks of it as a senseless practice, and thinks it should be abolished. In support of this opinion, the following resolution was adopted: "The Grand Commandery of Connecticut will welcome the Commanderies of different States within her jurisdiction without the formality of any special permission being granted for that purpose."

The Grand Commander of New York said: "We are one Order and I trust that this idea of giving permission to the other members of the family to call upon us may become obsolete at the earliest possible moment." In this opinion Grand Commandery concurred. Whether these views will grow in favor is an open question—they prevail with more or less influence in other jurisdictions, but they are met with the opinion that visitations or pilgrimages should be regulated in such a way that every Grand Commander may know what is being done by Knights Templar within his jurisdiction; as a matter of course there are other reasons, incidental and contingent, in favor of the latter position.

GRAND ENCAMPMENT.

In some of the proceedings noticed are included reports of representatives to the triennial conclave in San Francisco. These speak of the occasion in terms similar to those reported to this Commandery, but there is a clearly defined feeling that the Grand Encampment might be more useful. New York and Pennsylvania have voiced their opinions and communicated them to other Grand Commanderies. It is

claimed that these should be less interfered with in the management of their own affairs; that the "Code and Digest" is not the exponent of the best Masonic law; that it is inconsistent even with itself; that it deals with domestic matters, and is harmonious in results. Others are strong in its behalf, and claim that "a grave necessity does exist for the perpetuity of the Grand Encampment;" and that "we need a head, one that can read and expound the law with authority." It is asserted, and with much truth, that representatives themselves are to blame, for they assent to, by not opposing, or else vote in favor of measures they subsequently condemn. It cannot be called an exaggeration to say that an excess of street parade and competitive drill diverts the attention in divers ways, so that the representative mind is somewhat preoccupied; and less critical for the time being than after, and when it can look upon its work calmly.

THE RITUAL.

This is attracting much attention. The ritual of the Order of Malta, adopted by the Grand Encampment, has been considered in most if not all of the Grand Commanderies, and as a rule the short form, if either, has been adopted. In some cases, the ritual of all the Orders has been considered, and it is shown that different rituals are in use, with the probability that all are of a common parentage. The ritual of this jurisdiction, without pretense, can claim to be the oldest on this continent. This being so, and having been clung to and preserved with such pertinacity, it may be fairly regarded as an honest pride to wish to have it perpetuated. The matter of ritual is now before the Grand Encampment, and a committee, now existing, will report in September, 1886, thereon. This Grand Commandery having voted to present a copy to the Grand Encampment, has done that much toward securing uniformity in work and ritual, having the sanction of more than three-fourths of a century, and has come to us from Webb, Fowle, Salsbury, Dame, Bradford and Harwood—a line of ritualists of unexcelled fidelity to the text.

REPORTS ON CORRESPONDENCE.

It has not been possible, within the range of this report, to discuss the several reports on correspondence; they are of higher character and of unquestionable force in influencing opinion at home, and must necessarily affect that of their neighbors. The plan of reviewing the doings of the Grand Commanderies separately, is easier for the reviewer but more voluminous, and we may add, to our thinking, more instructive also. Such a report can not be judiciously made in less than twenty five of our printed pages, and would be better if allowed to extend to fifty, according to the importance of the matter in review.

In any case, much labor is involved, as you can readily understand from the fact that your reporter has looked over pamphlets aggregating over 4800 pages in preparing this report. The fullest report on correspondence makes 188 pages, and from that down to 45 pages. With two or three exceptions, all of the grand bodies have reports on correspondence, a few have them printed in advance of the annual conclave, and all appear in the printed proceedings. The exceptions are with the smallest grand bodies, whose incomes are necessarily small. Whether you conclude to leave the character of these reports to the care of your committee, without instruction, to print in advance, or have them read before printing, is matter for opinion. Be this as it may, the writer appreciates the honor of appointment to this duty, but asks to decline his continuance in what is so largely a labor of love. Grateful we are, however, for the many kind things said of our first report, and for your consideration.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir GEO. H. BURNHAM, Providence, Rhode Island, elected Grand Commander.

Sir ALFRED F. CHAPMAN, Boston, re-elected Grand Recorder.

MINNESOTA.

THE twentieth annual conclave was held in Winona, commencing June 24, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir A. M. SHUEY, Grand Commander.

Sir A. T. C. PIERSON, Grand Recorder.

Fourteen subordinate Commanderies represented. Six Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander, in his address, refers to the general good health prevailing in the jurisdiction, and says:

It is indeed surprising how few of our companions have been called to pass, unattended, the bridge at the confines of their earthly dominions, there to be ushered into the presence of the Supreme

Sovereign Master. Though few in number, they include some of the most zealous workers in the cause of templarism, for whom we shall always cherish the fondest recollections, and to whose memories we delight in paying tribute. We have with us to day past and present officers, some of whom have passed four score years, and although the corrosion of time has somewhat impaired their physical strength, their love for the Order and their interest in its welfare and prosperity but increase with each declining year. May time deal gently with them, and may we all try to imitate their example.

TACTICS.

On the question of tactics, he says:

In August, 1883, the Grand Encampment of the United States ordered that each Grand Commandery select at its discretion the tactics to be used.

In 1867, this Grand Commandery adopted Welch's tactics, and, 1880, adopted Woodhull's instead.

Very few commanderies are now using the latter, especially those which are more conversant with the military movements. The reason therefor is that it is incomplete, and that it differs too much from the United States tactics now in use.

We live in an age of progress, and as time goes on improvements in tactics are made. I would, therefore, recommend the adoption of a work better suited to our use, and would call your attention to H. B. Grant's tactics, which I find is coming into general use throughout the country, and I believe it to be the most complete and correct work extant.

And the special committee to whom that part of the address was referred, submitted the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That Grant's tactics be, and they are hereby, applied as the tactics to be use by the commanderies in this jurisdiction: *Provided*, That any commandery may, in its discretion, drill in formation of fours based on the general principles of Grant's tactics.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The Grand Commander recommends that one of the forms of Malta work, as promulgated by the Grand Encampment, be adopted.

He also recommends that immediate steps be taken to secure suitable headquarters for the Grand Commandery

during the session of the Grand Encampment, in St. Louis, as accommodations will be somewhat limited.

Perhaps the accommodations will be limited, but the price, as we of Michigan have found out, has no limit, except the end of the pocketbook. St. Louis ought to hang her head in very shame at the prices being charged for accommodations.

ADORNMENT.

The proceedings are adorned with fine portraits of Past Grand Commanders James M. Cole and W. C. Williston.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir Pierson gives his review of the transactions of thirty-three sister Grand Commanderies. As usual, the report is painstaking, courteous and fraternal, doing honor to the head and heart that wrote it. In his opening, he says:

The proceedings of the Grand Commanderies hereinafter named have been received and examined; and at the time of reception, many paragraphs marked for copying; but when we came to make up the report it was found that if all the paragraphs marked should be copied it would more than double the space usually occupied by us. Doubtless many points of interest have been omitted, the presentation of which would have been appreciated by the Sir Knights of this jurisdiction. We have done the best we could under the circumstances, and our readers will please accept the "will for the deed."

IOWA.

Of Sir Knight Guilbert, of Iowa, and his report, Sir Knight Pierson says:

Sir Knight Guilbert has lost none of the fire that characterized his reports in years gone by; just as independent and fearless in the expression of his opinions and thoroughly honest. He understands the use of the scalpel, and does not hesitate to use it.

MICHIGAN.

Under Michigan, he quotes our recommendation to him (Pierson) to burn pine knots or anything else if *his gas* goes out again before he completes his review of Michigan, and says:

The truth is that such small type is used in printing your reports that a reviewer should utilize the light of the sun, and as our reports are mostly prepared in the night time we are bothered after low twelve. Then, again, as to "pine knots" there are none within hundreds of miles of St. Paul; the land is all occupied with cities or farms—no pine woods in this vicinity.

We always knew St. Paul was a great city; the greatest kind of a one, (except when measured by a Minneapolis eye,) but we had no real idea of the extent of the city until reminded by Sir Knight Pierson.

NEBRASKA.

Under Nebraska, he thus truthfully speaks of her model Grand Recorder:

The Grand Recorder is a model. He has electrotyped plates of the proceedings of the Grand Commandery from the organization. We think the plan a good one, and economical, as the proceedings of any one year as they become exhausted could be reproduced at the cost of paper, press work, and binding

OHIO.

Under Ohio, he gives what its Grand Commander said of what he terms "Irregular Masonry," and says:

Ohio has a statute enacted in 1884. More recently Massachusetts, Connecticut, etc., have put laws under these statute books defining what, in their opinions, are regular decrees and organizations, and declaring it a penal offense to receive or promulgate others. Yet the work goes on, the statutes, resolutions, etc., are a dead letter, no attention is paid to them, and no attempt is made to enforce them.

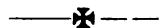
Very few but unprincipled men are engaged in this nefarious practice, but how to reach them is the question. We have known brethren who had not yet left the lodge room, after being raised to the Master's degree, to be importuned to sign applications for, as they termed them, the higher degrees. We can see no solution so long as men will consent to be humbugged.

We say that the only proper solution of this question, so far as Knights Templar are concerned, is to let it *severely alone! severely alone!*

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir WILLIAM D. CORNISH, St. Paul. elected Grand Commander.

Sir A. T. C. PIERSON, St. Paul, re-elected Grand Recorder.



MISSISSIPPI.

THE twenty-fifth annual conclave was held at Winona, commencing June 24, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir W. P. TOWLER, Grand Commander.

Sir JOHN L. POWER, Grand Recorder.

Seven out of the thirteen Grand Officers were represented by proxy. Six subordinate Commanderies represented.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander welcomes the Sir Knights as follows:

It is, Sir Knights, my pleasant duty to extend to you a hearty welcome to this our twenty-fifth annual conclave, and to invite your careful attention to matters pertaining to our Order—to carefully consider the past and devise such measures as in your judgment you think best for the future welfare of our beloved Order.

CHANGE OF TIME FOR HOLDING THE GRAND CONCLAVE.

For the accommodation of the Sir Knights of Winona, the meeting of the Grand Commandery was postponed from the 10th to 24th of June. We are in doubt as to the power of a Grand Commander to make such a change, except upon much more urgent reasons than the above would seem to indicate.

CONCLUSION.

We give the Grand Commander's concluding remarks in full:

Sir Knights, soon the gavel of authority which by your partiality you placed in my hands one year ago, will be transmitted to the keep-

ing of an abler and more worthy frater, but none more anxious to see the Order rise and shine before the world with more splendid and brilliant exhibitions of moral and Christian power.

In all history, men of all degrees of excellence have stepped forward to maintain the supremacy of their thoughts, their rights, their creeds and their unions. Amongst the Hebrews, we read of Moses; amongst the Egyptians, a Thotmes; amongst the Persians, a Zoroaster; and amongst the Christians, greater than any of these, an impetuous Peter, and amiable John and intrepid Paul; and in the roll of ages amongst the founders of our Order, Jaque De Molay will stand upon the pages of history, great in purpose, wise in council, and heroic in death.

Where I shall be in the future with you, my beloved friends and Sir Knights, I do not know, but wherever I am you will see one of your humblest and most faithful co-workers. What the future shall have in store for us does not depend upon you or me alone, but upon the united, honest, earnest, intelligent efforts of the Order. Individually we are but a point of space or drop of an ocean, but in the spirit of the High behest of our Grand Commandery, faithful exemplars of our precepts in theory and our duty in practice. Is there one Knight Templar before me who will not join hands and hearts on this plain, simple but incontrovertible proposition? The right we will ever sustain, the wrong we will ever oppose, standing by each other in the vicissitudes of life, to make us better and stronger, so that we can fill our day of probation as a faithful "hireling," in order that we may meet again on that brighter and fairer shore where trials end and a happy eternity dawns. That this may be our individual and united fortunes, is the prayer of your Grand Commander, who now strikes in authority the last tone of the gavel that he surrenders, not only without dishonor, but hoping it will survive the ages to come, with increasing authority until the countersign is echoed beyond the grave.

RECOMMENDATION.

The following recommendation from the committee on doings of grand officers was adopted:

We recommend that the amendments proposed by the Grand Commandery of New York to the constitution of the Grand Encampment of the United States, and forwarded to the R. E. Grand Commander to be laid before this grand body, be referred to the committee on Templar law.

Also the following from the committee on Templar law:

Your committee beg leave to further report, that the suggestions from the Grand Commandery of the state of New York, be respectfully referred to the representatives of this grand body, to the Grand Encampment of the United States, at the next conclave.

Resolved, That the ritual of the Knights of Malta, as issued by the Grand Encampment, having been received and distributed in this grand jurisdiction, that this Grand Commandery do adopt the same as the ritual of work, for all Commanderies under the same.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir Charles M. Erwin submits the report on correspondence, and in opening says:

Your committee, to whom was referred the subject of fraternal correspondence at the last annual conclave of this grand body, beg leave to present the following report:

The chairman, acting for the committee, (as we believe is customary,) has, to the best of his ability, with the time and space at his disposal, reviewed the proceedings of thirty grand jurisdictions, being all, except England and Wales, Louisiana and New York, which did not come to hand.

That his work is far from perfect, the chairman is keenly sensible, but he would plead in extenuation that it is his first offense, and in all probability will be his last.

Under the circumstances it has been impossible to submit the report to the other members of the committee before presenting it, and they must be held guiltless of its imperfections.

MICHIGAN.

Michigan, for 1884, has kindly notice, for which we return our personal thanks. Twenty-nine jurisdictions are fraternally commented upon, and we congratulate our worthy Sir Knight on his skillful handling of every subject-matter.

CONCLUSION.

He concludes as follows, and then surrenders to that able champion and old wheel-horse DeLap:

And now our task is done. We have tried our 'prentice hand at the reportorial art, with small satisfaction to ourself, and, we fear, much less to our readers.

We hope, however, that our brother reporters will give us credit for good intentions, and set down naught in malice against us.

To Sir Knights Gurney, Carson, Ruckle, Woodruff, Guibert, Berry, Edwards, Monell, and the long line of illustrious fratres whose acquaintance we have made in our swift journey through the states, we wish to return thanks for the pleasure found in reading their bright and witty sayings.

Where we have ventured to differ with any of them, it has been with serious misgivings, because of their so much longer experience. Still, when we felt impelled to differ, we have done so, but always endeavoring to let our words be temperate and without sting.

As Sir Knight DeLap's health is restored, this will probably be our last appearance among the Mutuals, and we therefore, with these pages, waft them all a kindly adieu, with the sincere hope of living to grasp the hand of each at St. Louis.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir JOHN H. GORDON, Port Gibson, elected Grand Commander.

Sir JOHN L. POWER, Jackson, re-elected Grand Recorder.

MISSOURI.

THE twenty-fourth annual conclave was held in St. Louis, commencing May 5, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir JOHN A. SLOAN, Grand Commander.

Sir WM. H. MAYO, Grand Recorder.

Thirty-nine subordinate Commanderies represented. Seven Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander alludes feelingly to the death of some of the members of the Grand Commandery, and recommends that the subject-matter be referred to a special committee.

CONDITION OF THE ORDER.

On the condition of the Order, he says:

The official year now closing has been one of unusual quietude and yet of prosperity; for I am happy to know and announce to you that

our subordinates have quietly pursued the even tenor of their way; that among them there have been no unseemly contentions, and on the contrary, a general desire to promote the forward progress of the Order. Keep it so, Sir Knights! Let us take pride in our union of hearts and hands, in our desire that the actions of each and all shall be for no personal benefit, but only that our Order shall continue to be prosperous, and the Captain of our salvation be glorified.

Being a plain man, and not much given to long addresses, I will now proceed to give you an account of my stewardship during the year, the transactions of which we have met to review. And it now becomes our duty to take such action as may appear necessary to affirm and continue the work committed to us as the representatives of the Sir Knights of this state.

DECISIONS.

He says, on the question of decisions:

As may be reasonably expected, each Grand Commander is in receipt of many letters asking decisions on questions, and many such letters have reached me, all of which were answered by quoting from the code of statutes such sections as applied to each question except one, viz: That the formation of triangle in the asylum as now made, is a part of the ritual or work, and neither Grant's nor any other system of tactics can change it, until this grand body does.

PROPER DRESS.

We refer to the following queer recommendation, made by the Grand Commander:

In view of the fact that the Grand Encampment of the United States meets in this jurisdiction in 1886, your Grand Commander would recommend that the uniform adopted by the Grand Encampment of the United States be enforced by this grand body and to do this we must commence with members of this Grand Commandery, and let them obey the law, and then they can insist on the members of their respective Commanderies doing so.

It is good that once in a while something occurs in Missouri to "dress the boys up" in proper style.

TRIENNIAL.

The following is from the special committee on triennial:

Your committee on triennial conclave would respectfully report that they met soon after their appointment by the Grand Commandery, elected officers, adopted by-laws, and have held regular monthly meet-

ings, besides several special meetings. We have already had a large amount of correspondence; have sent circulars to every Commandery in the United States, and have made a number of preliminary arrangements. We are pleased to report a very general interest, and promise of hearty co-operation and assistance from all parts of the State.

Although the conclave is still over a year in the future, we have received liberal subscriptions from Sir Knights and Commanderies in all parts of the jurisdiction.

One Commandery kindly sent us five hundred dollars, cash, which has been more than sufficient to pay our expenses thus far.

* * * * *

On motion of Sir Ellis, the sum of one thousand dollars of the funds of the Grand Commandery was appropriated for the use of the triennial committee during the incoming year.

We advise Sir Parsons to make a genuine "kick" on behalf of Templars generally, upon the outrageous charges being exacted by hotel men for quarters during the triennial. When men can be found to charge \$40.00 per day for a 12 x 16 foot room, and require payment for it so many days before the Grand Encampment meets, nothing but a fear of discovery prevents them from stealing your pocketbook. With such actions, Chicago appears in delightful contrast and needs to be proud of herself; and St. Louis needs (as we said under our review of Minnesota) to hang her head in very shame!

CLOSING.

Sir Knight Mayo, at the end of his review, says so many good things, that we call a halt on the further doings of this Grand Commandery, and give "his say-so" in full. With much of what he says we are in accord; but his reference to those who "see no good" in the further continuance of the Grand Encampment, we cannot endorse, and we don't think it makes any difference whether the opposition comes from north, south, east, or west, the facts still remain, and no territorial limit ought to influence one's actions or prevent a full expression of opinion:

Here we are at home again, after our annual pilgrimage of thought through thirty-two grand jurisdictions for 1884. We have *invaded*

them all, and that without a *special dispensation* either. We have found many things of general interest to ourselves, and we hope what we have given in the foregoing pages will prove of interest to our readers.

Taking a retrospective view, and in giving our concluding remarks, we are constrained to say, our beloved Order is improving and progressing, on the whole, very satisfactorily. The ritual of the Order of Malta, as prescribed by the Grand Encampment, has been ratified by all Grand Commanderies where received; usually the short formula adopted, sometimes left optional with the subordinates to use either. In our journey we found a few disaffected, possibly disappointed office-seekers, who are inclined to advocate or start a secession movement against the Grand Encampment; and, strange to say, they are not among the southern states, either. We know of no law, in the civil, religious, political, or Masonic world, to prevent a man from making a *show* of himself, and there are hundreds of instances on record in these different spheres (except Masonic,) where it has been done, and the fact that a case now and then "bobs up serenely" in the Masonic sphere should not, and does not, upon careful reflection, cause much apprehension of revolutionizing the Masonic world. Some of the writers and talkers call them "cranks," "porcupines," "abnormities," etc., but we think such names are harsh and unnecessary; we rather think they are vents for the letting off of the bad gases that naturally accumulate, caused by the friction in presenting and advocating different views and ideas as to the objects and aims of these different governments. All institutions have them, why not the Masonic? No institution is worthy the patronage and confidence of good men if it can not stand and improve by having a certain amount of adverse criticism. We have also noticed that occasionally some one of these peculiarly eccentric personages get their little secession resolution before a grand body. It takes the proper course, and its few advocates bestir themselves for awhile, but when it comes to a test vote, all are surprised to find it did not amount to a respectable opposition. The Grand Encampment, Knights Templar of the United States, is a stronger body to-day than it has ever been in its history; of course, it has done some foolish things, and has left undone some very important things, but what legislative body in existence, or that has ever existed, that does not, or has not, from the National Government's Congress down to the smallest corporation with legislative powers?

There are some things we dislike, and would be pleased to see done away with or discontinued, as they are absolutely useless and calculated to provoke a smile of derision, first: immediately after the

opening of about nine-tenths of the grand bodies, we find that generally some verdant youth jumps up and moves that "The proceedings of the last-annual conclave, having been printed and distributed, the reading of the same be dispensed with, and they be approved." Yet the record shows that after each day's session, or before the final closing of the grand body, it has read, for correction, its record, which is the only proper method, while those who were parties to the transactions are present, and while the proceedings are fresh in their minds. Then why allow such absurdities go into printed proceedings, intimating that a body after one year had elapsed, and which body, in nine cases out of ten, is composed of different legislators in a very large proportion—why allow them to imagine that they can read, correct and approve the record made by an entirely different body one year previously? Such a motion would not be tolerated for a moment in the National Congress, any State Legislature, civil, religious or political convention.

Another of our dislikes is, year after year, and state after state, we read in the annual addresses of a large majority of the Grand Commanderies, just about such a paragraph as the following:

One year ago when you, my fratre, conferred upon me the high and honorable position of Grand Commander, I promised, and I determined to visit personally every subordinate Commandery in this jurisdiction, but during the year just closed I have found that my private business, family relations, or circumstances over which I had no control, have prevented the fulfillment of this promise and earnest desire on my part.

These same states, or the most of them, are by law sub-divided into four or more divisions, and placed under the direct supervision of one of the grand officers, and the law of the grand body prescribes generally how visitations shall be made. No sensible man, or body of men, expects a Grand Commander to neglect his business or family in order to parade about over his state for weeks or months, just in order to show himself and his handsome new uniform, and make speeches; most of the grand bodies have a "custodian of the work," a "Grand Lecturer," "Inspector," or some officer of that kind, whose duty it is, and who generally does visit and instruct the subordinate bodies. Oh for a Grand Commander that would come out plainly and say that he thanked the grand body for the high and honorable office conferred, and that he duly appreciated its responsibilities and cares, and would devote all the time necessary to the discharge of his duties, but that he did not intend attempting such an irksome and useless task as officially visiting all the subordinates in his jurisdiction.

Another of our dislikes is, the use latterly (for we have only noticed it during the past few years,) of the word "*invade*" by Grand Commanders when speaking or writing of a courteous and fraternal visit of I

one Commandery to another from different states. INVADE is a harsh word, and if we remember correctly, Walker, Webster and Worcester say, and it is accepted the world over, to mean "to attack," "to assault," to enter the country or possessions of another, as an army with hostile intentions, with a view of conquest or plunder. The above is about the only definition that can possibly be given the word, and as such visitations by Commanderies are always pleasant, peaceable, and promote good fellowship, and result in the formation of ties that are pleasant and lasting, we can see no possible excuse for the use of the word in the connection spoken of.

We were desirous of having more to say on the subject of cutting Templary loose from Ancient Craft Masonry, but the very few who have intimated they would like to see this course taken, have advanced no argument whatever in its favor that we have seen, and as we are not anxious to cross the bridge until we get to it, or "bid the devil good morning until we meet him," we will drop the subject, with the assurance to our readers that should it ever amount to a respectable movement, we are ready to meet it or its friends, face to face, or pen to pen.

We are profoundly thankful for the many kind expressions, courteous treatment, flattering lines that we have received from so many sources, and can truthfully repeat our toast that is drank now regularly every Christmas-day at twelve o'clock (Washington time) by scores in the different jurisdictions, namely: "Peace on earth, good will toward all men."

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir GEORGE F. ROGERS, Hamilton, elected Grand Commander.

Sir WILLIAM H. MAYO, St. Louis, re-elected Grand Recorder.

NEBRASKA.

THE thirteenth annual conclave was held in Lincoln, commencing April 14, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir THOMAS SEWELL, Grand Commander.

Sir WILLIAM R. BOWEN, Grand Recorder.

Thirteen subordinate Commanderies represented. Five Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander refers to the services held on Ascension Day, and says:

As arranged by my predecessor, R. E. Sir Samuel G. Owen, the Grand Commandery attended religious services at Trinity Cathedral, Omaha, on Ascension Day. The services were conducted by R. E. Sir Clinton F. Locke, Past Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. They were of a very impressive and instructive character. A large representation from several of the Commanderies of this jurisdiction were present. The Grand Commandery, with the visiting Templars, were escorted by Mount Calvary Commandery, No. 1, Omaha, to the cathedral, and after the services, to their banquet room, where ample refreshments were provided by these courteous and generous Templars. After a time spent in social and fraternal intercourse, Mount Calvary Commandery, with their invited guests, assembled in their asylum, and I installed the officers-elect for the ensuing year. After this interesting ceremony the lines were formed, and a pilgrimage made to the homes of several of Omaha's honored Knights, whose unbounded hospitality was appreciated by all participating. Too much credit cannot be given to the officers and members of Mount Calvary Commandery for the courteous manner in which they received and entertained their visiting fratre. The Grand Commander was escorted from Lincoln to Omaha and return by Mount Moriah Commandery, No. 4, Lincoln, and they, together with Mount Calvary, No. 1, Omaha, will please accept my grateful acknowledgments for the many acts of courtesy extended on this occasion.

Referring to the report on foreign correspondence, he says:

I have examined, with some care, the report of the committee on foreign correspondence, and find it a very able and well written document. It will compare favorably with the best and most brilliant "reviews" in this field of literature. In my judgment, on account of the labor and time devoted to its preparation, something more tangible than the thanks of this Grand Commandery should be extended to E. Sir John J. Monell, Jr., for this report. It is alike creditable to himself as well as to this grand body.

And Sir Knight Monell writes to the members of the Grand Commandery the following on that same subject:

As your committee on correspondence, I most *feelingly* regret, that an unfortunate accident, which occurred to me during the early part of last month, compels me most unwillingly, to abandon the completion of my report, and tender you this excuse instead.

I was on a Union Pacific railway train, on my way to Omaha. The train was running at full speed. One of our Nebraska hurricanes was blowing with more than its usual emphasis, and directly at right angles with the train. In attempting to pass from one car to another, I had no sooner stepped on the platform, than I was staggered by the force of the wind, and before I could regain my balance I fell from the platform and promptly measured my length on the free soil of Nebraska; result a badly dislocated ankle, and the small bone of the leg splintered. The surgeons call the injury a "Pott's fracture," which no doubt renders the entire matter quite clear to you. As the possessor of so learned and high sounding an injury, I of course felt sensibly reconciled to my suffering, anticipating great distinction in the annals of surgery thereby. I am, however, slowly drifting toward the conclusion, that I might have been persuaded to deny myself this surgical distinction, and permit Mr. Pott to keep his fracture for his own use; I would prefer to finish my report. Such little labor as I could manage with much difficulty to perform, since my accident, has been imperatively demanded by matters of business, quite closely connected with the unromantic question of daily bread and butter. I have, therefore, been compelled to cast a wistful look of farewell on the many leaves of my unfinished report on foreign correspondence, which now, alas, will never see the light, as I pen this *lame* excuse for its non-appearance. I say "alas," because no man likes to leave an undertaking uncompleted, even though when accomplished it may be no great things. I had intended this now unfinished report to be my last, having merely occupied the post till some abler and more experienced reporter could be induced to occupy it, and on this account I the more regret the break in our reports, but with writers of such experience and ability as Sirs Warren, Marlay, Bowen, Tulleys, and abundance of others, I trust Nebraska will not again be compelled to put her journal in print without a creditable report on correspondence. It will be a consolation to reflect that the loss of your report is more than compensated by a marked diminution in the expense account. I expect to be through with Mr. Pott's fracture in about three or four weeks, when I shall at once return it to him in good order. Real sorry I cannot meet with you. While you all declaim, I will applaud from here.

And that is "wherefore we laugh!"

EASTER OBSERVANCE.

On the observance of Easter Day, the Grand Commander says:

On Easter Sunday I attended divine service with Mount Moriah Commandery, No. 4, at the church of the Holy Trinity, Lincoln. The ceremonies were of a very impressive character, and particularly so in repeating the Apostolic Creed. Forty swords were presented, and each Sir Knight renewed his vows of fealty to the risen Christ, with a renewed determination to wield his sword in the defense of the Christian religion. The sermon was delivered by the Rector, Rev. A. A. Allen, and made a deep impression on the hearts and minds of all present. The church was beautifully decorated with flowers and evergreens, the floral offerings being emblematic of our Order. R. E. Sirs Rolland H. Oakley, Joseph K. Marlay and Samuel G. Owen, Past Grand Commanders of this state, participated with us in the exercises.

RECOMMENDATION.

He submits the following recommendation to the Grand Commandery:

A period in the history of our Order in this grand jurisdiction, has been reached, it seems to me, when some action should be taken by this Grand Commandery in regard to a uniformity of costume. In my visits to the different Commanderies I have noticed a great diversity in the style and trimming of the clothing. Some have brass buttons, while others have white metal and black buttons. While I would not make it obligatory on any Commandery, or individual Knight, to purchase clothing, I would recommend that some system be adopted by this Grand Commandery, and that each subordinate Commandery be required, when they voluntarily clothe themselves, that they comply with the rules of this Grand Commandery. Unless some action is taken, in the near future there will be no two Commanderies in this jurisdiction costumed alike.

I also recommend that a Commander-elect be ineligible for installation unless qualified to confer the Orders.

At the last session of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America, held at San Francisco, California, August 21, 1883, two rituals for the Order of Malta were adopted, one denominated the long and the other the short ceremonial. It was left discretionary with the Grand Commanderies to determine which of these ceremonials they would use. Some action relating to this matter should be taken by this grand body. I recommend the short ceremonial.

I recommend that when a special dispensation is requested by a Commander or a Commandery, that five dollars be charged for the same, and the amount placed in the hands of the Grand Treasurer for the use of the Grand Commandery.

During the year I have answered a great many questions verbally and by letter, which information could have been gained by a reference to the code of statutes of the Grand Encampment of the United States; I therefore recommend that the code of statutes be printed with the proceedings for 1885, if the finances of the Grand Commandery will permit.

RESOLUTION.

The following preamble and resolution was referred to the committee on charters and dispensations:

WHEREAS, Quality rather than quantity of subordinate commanderies in our jurisdiction is what this body most desires; therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Grand Commandery, in annual conclave assembled, and we would recommend to all Commanderies in this jurisdiction, that for the next two years that no recommendation be given for the organization of other Commanderies within their respective jurisdictions.

And were reported upon as follows:

Your committee on charters and dispensations, to which was referred the resolution of Sir———, relating to issuing dispensation for new Commanderies within this grand jurisdiction, ask leave to report, we are of the opinion that the interest of Templar Masonry will be better protected by having a few strong Commanderies than too many composed of few members; and further it is the duty of this grand body to protect the Commanderies now in existence, who look to it to enact such rules and regulations as will tend to promote the interest of the Order within our state. We therefore recommend that no dispensation be issued for a new Commandery U. D. within forty miles of a chartered Commandery.

A good resolution, and we only regret that the name of the Sir Knight offering it does not appear; his modesty truly bespeaks his merit!

JURISPRUDENCE.

The following reports, from the committee on jurisprudence, were adopted:

Your committee to which was referred the following query, to-wit: "Is a grand officer of this Grand Commandery, who is also a Past Grand Commander, entitled to more than one vote?"

ANSWER.—No.

The committee on Masonic jurisprudence, to whom was referred the decision of the R. E. Grand Commander: "That on officer *pro tem.* of this Grand Commandery is entitled to vote as a grand officer by virtue of said appointment," have had the same under consideration, and cannot approve of said decision, for the reason that in their opinion it is the installation of an officer that gives him the right to vote as such.

* * * * *

Your committee to which was referred the following query, namely: "Is a Past Grand Commander entitled to more than one vote?" beg leave to report. That we are compelled, under the present decision of the Grand Master, approved by the Grand Encampment of the United States, to say, no. We, however, think the law unjust and inequitable, and that our representatives be, and they are, hereby requested to ask for and urge its abrogation.

* * * * *

Your committee on jurisprudence, to which was referred that portion of the Grand Commander's address, saying that no Sir Knight shall be installed as Commander of a subordinate Commandery unless qualified to confer the Orders of Knighthood, have had the same under consideration, and courteously report: We are of the opinion that subordinate Commanderies are the best judges as to who should fill the important station of Commander, but would courteously recommend to them to use great care in the selection of the most important officer of their command.

The committee on "Ritual of Malta" recommended the adoption of the "short ceremonial."

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir ALLEN B. SMITH, Omaha, elected Grand Commander.

Sir WILLIAM R. BOWEN, Omaha, re-elected Grand Recorder.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

THE twenty-sixth annual conclave was held in the city of Concord, commencing September 29, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir JOHN FRANCIS WEBSTER, Grand Commander.

Sir GEORGE P. CLEAVES, Grand Recorder.

Nine subordinate Commanderies represented. Seven Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

On the prosperity of the Order within his jurisdiction, the Grand Commander says:

Our Order has continued in prosperity and perfect harmony. Not one word of discord has come from any Commandery in our jurisdiction. With such prosperity and harmony, the strength of our Order has increased. We are well assured that Knights Templar in New Hampshire are showing to the world the true worth of charity and hospitality, and that the moral and beneficent principles of Templar Masonry are bright in all their primitive beauty and loveliness. With this thought before us, let us put forth our best endeavors to improve ourselves in all that is good and noble, doing all that is in our power for the good of mankind.

His address is devoted to the work performed by him during the year, and it shows that it has been a busy year with him.

ORDER OF MALTA.

He calls attention to the ritual of the Order of Malta, promulgated by the Grand Encampment of the United States, and says: "Action should be taken to determine the course to be followed in its use, and the Grand Commandery to authorize the use of either the long or short form, as the subordinates might elect."

ASCENSION DAY.

The Grand Commander appointed a special committee to prepare a form of service for Ascension Day.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir Knight John J. Bell submits the report on correspondence. From this "Bell" we have no uncertain sound; the "tone" is clear and the "ring" genuine! Thirty sister grand jurisdictions, including Michigan for 1885, are courteously reviewed.

ALABAMA.

Under Alabama, he quotes the following from Sir Knight Sayres, who, under Connecticut, thus speaks of the recommendation made by its Grand Commander to abolish the banquet:

We are sorry that we cannot agree with this distinguished and learned Grand Commander in that. Abolish the banquet! Why the very idea is absurd. What then would be the use of being a distinguished Sir Knight?

And says:

Did the thought of the loss of that "grand entertainment at the Saint James," at Selma, add fervor to these words? Yet he objects to the Grand Encampment being the occasion of what he calls "excessive displays," and hopes that some one at St. Louis will introduce a resolution cutting off that feature. We venture to predict that, while Alabama has her prize drills and her banquets, the attempt to draw a straighter reign over the Grand Encampment will fail.

IOWA.

We extract liberally from his review of Iowa. It will repay a careful reading by all Sir Knights, even if they cannot agree with Sir Bell on the positions taken:

Sir Knight Guilbert is a writer of well-known Masonic fame, and if we may not always agree with him in his conclusions, we must give him credit for decided views which he holds against all nay say. His especial *bête noir* has for long years been the national grand bodies, of whose possible usurpations he has great fear, and whose usefulness he, not properly speaking, doubts (for he is very certain it does not exist).

He says hard things, and even descends to calling names, and, if he could transfer them to his paper, we almost think he would make up faces at the Grand Encampment, which seems to us altogether too puerile for a man of our frater's acknowledged ability and Masonic learning. If we are to differ, let us at least use the arguments and the language of men and Christian Knights, not of mere school boys. And, if our frater will pardon the suggestion, far more effect is produced by candid arguments than violent denunciation. The writer, in the course of almost thirty years' observation of the course of masonic discussion, during the most of which he has had occasion to write reports on correspondence, has had opportunity to learn of how little utility such discussions are. The general grand bodies have during all that time been denounced by not a few who, for various reasons, have doubted their usefulness, but the great mass of the craft have steadily persisted in the belief that somehow sufficient good came for them to justify their existence. And when it seemed that they were about to succumb to the attacks made upon them, their foes, themselves, have proved their strongest defenders. It would be a bold man who would attempt to defend all the follies which these bodies have sometimes seemed to attempt, or perhaps we should say, have been the medium of. Per contra, if it were not for their conservative influence, it is probable that far greater follies would in some directions have been committed. After all, the general grand bodies fairly represent the actual feeling and mind of the Masonic fraternity, and when they cease to do so they are wholly powerless. That in some directions they have done so little, has been because so many shades of opinion exist, all of which are faithfully represented in them, that they are unable to find that common standpoint which is essential to their doing anything. In our own case, the questions of ritual, of tactics, of uniform, not to mention others, are differently regarded, and with eminent fratre, each sure of his own accuracy, and, therefore, unwilling to yield. Until a willingness to concede varying views to procure common agreement shall arise, even if the Grand Encampment could agree within itself, its acts would have no validity, in fact, however regular they might be in form, and its meetings, by bringing us all together, is doing much to bring about that unanimity of feeling and to destroy that sense of local pride and importance which leads men to be strenuous in the support of their own peculiar views. If it be alleged that the great show with which its meetings of late have been surrounded have interfered with its work, that electioneering tactics have controlled its disposition of official honors, or that in any other way it has failed, all these are but matters of little importance, and will in due time cure themselves.

There is no need of a revolution to cure so small wrongs. On the whole, the real need of the general grand bodies, which is felt by the average companion and templar, combined with the attraction of the public display and the gratified vanity of so many, who, in one way and another, manage to get a certain notoriety out of them, will maintain them in the future as it has in the past. In truth, grant whatever may be said against the general grand bodies, and the same may be said in yet larger measure of the state bodies, and the logical conclusion from the complaints made would be that all the governing bodies should be dispensed with, and the Lodge, the Chapter, and the Commandery should each govern itself. In saying all this, we would say nothing to hurt the feelings of any, and beg not to be understood as attacking any one, nor defending any, but simply declaring how things look from our standpoint.

MICHIGAN.

Under Michigan, he says of Sir Knight Moore's action on the ritual of the Malta:

He had ordered that the work of Malta adopted by the Grand Encampment could not be used, because his Grand Commandery had some time before adopted a work of its own for that Order. If there is any subject on which the Grand Encampment clearly has authority to legislate, it is that of work, and when it directs the use of any work, all legislation by the Grand Commanderies on that topic must be suspended, and it requires no action of the Grand Commandery to put the work of the Grand Encampment into use. We deem, therefore, that our frater erred.

Sir Bell, do you really think Past Grand Commander Moore erred? If so, what excuse have you to make for your own loyal New Hampshire? See what we quote from the address of your Grand Commander (Webster) and the action of the committee on grand officers' doings on that same matter! How much does your own action vary from ours? We can only say that both New Hampshire and Michigan were right. The State grand commanderies having adopted a Malta work, the Grand Commander had no authority, during recess, to promulgate any other. Courtesy to the state bodies required action by them, first rescinding their action and then adopting the other work if they so voted.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

Here is what he says of us and our remarks on the grand representative question:

Our frater does not approve of the representative system, and says Michigan never adopted it "*because they can settle no difficulty, or make their influence felt.*" We have never understood that the representatives were other than ornamental appendages. And we do not see much good for them, except in the promotion of mutually kindly feelings among the members of different Grand Commanderies. It is, however, a harmless sort of amusement, and, on the whole, we think does more good than harm, and may as well be continued.

PENNSYLVANIA.

His review of Pennsylvania is very full and interesting, and, after quoting the resolution adopted by that body, relative to the Grand Encampment of the United States, he says:

Of the existence of a certain dissatisfaction arising from different causes in different minds, we must all be well aware. That that dissatisfaction is sufficiently great to require any heroic treatment, we do not believe. It may (in all charity would we say it) be said to arise chiefly from three reasons: First, The disappointment at the selection of office bearers. Second, The failure of the Grand Encampment to do all that was asked and expected of it, and the consequent assumption of power by some Grand Commanderies hardly consistent with the constitution of the Grand Encampment; and thence, third, The complaint, not that the body has done any tyrannical act, but that it claims powers which some may perhaps really fear will do harm to the Order, but which most only fear will interfere with their pet plans and schemes.

More than thirty years of watching the operations of the national grand bodies have given to me certain views which I wish here to state if I can formulate them so that they may be understood, and which it seems to me must form an answer to all the complaints we have alluded to.

Ours is a purely voluntary association, and no matter what may be the forms of its constitutions and laws, the only powers any body of the craft may, or indeed can, exercise are those which the general sense of the whole fraternity approve, and no matter how despotic the form and name may be, or how lenient, how weak, or how slight in nominal force, the actual practical working will be precisely the same in either

case. How much or how little will be done will depend wholly upon whether any general sentiment in the whole society demands or will sustain it. When, in 1859, the old constitution of the General Grand Chapter, which had been made the scapegoat of those who opposed, for various reasons, the action of that body, was modified so as in theory and language to deprive it of all power except over the ritual, the body itself went on exercising the same powers as before, and as those who came into power on the wave of the revolution were in consequence less suspected of desire for any arbitrary power, they were actually enabled to do many things which those they displaced would never have dared to do. While on the subject of ritual, wherein it had confessedly all power, it for many years was unable to exert that authority. It seems to me idle to argue either from history or from written documents, what either is or should be the authority of the Grand Encampment. In fact, it will continue to exercise those powers, and those powers only which it is permitted by the general consent of the whole body of knighthood to exercise, and any attempt to go one step farther will certainly end in failure. For example, the Grand Encampment has, in form, power given it to prescribe a uniform clothing. Grand Master Hubbard, in 1859, attempted to exclude all not properly clothed from the session of the Grand Encampment, but failed, on the definition of what was the proper clothing. But the incongruous collection of clothing which his order brought to Chicago, made it apparent to the members of the Grand Encampment there present that that body ought to define what the proper clothing of a Knight Templar should be, and a regulation was made which would give a uniform, historically and symbolically, leaving little to be desired. It seemed for a short time as though the whole body of knighthood would accept it, but for various reasons, which need not be stated, it was found unsatisfactory. In 1862, it was modified and fell flat. Attempts have been made to enforce it, but the Grand Encampment is powerless, and several Grand Commanderies have attempted to establish the uniform for their jurisdictions, or sometimes euphemistically to declare what the regulation of the Grand Encampment is. The trouble is, our fratres are each fixed in his opinion of what he wants the uniform to be and are each determined not to yield. Now, in such case, only one thing is possible —wait!! The same thing is largely true of ritual. There are signs that our fratres are seeing the need of that mutual concession on this last point, which must precede any successful action.

With these views, I have no fear of the Grand Encampment. I do not doubt that whatever changes may be made in its constitutions or laws, that it will do precisely what it is permitted to do, and no more.

I do not expect it will always act wisely, for I have learned that as individual men will do unwise things, so bodies of men, being composed of individuals, will also do unwise things. Still, I do expect that while it will be less swift to start, it will be wiser in doing than the individual or smaller bodies of individuals.

The changes proposed seem to me unwise, not because they would in any way diminish or increase the powers of the Grand Encampment, but because they are historically inaccurate, are not consonant with the form of our organization, and would tend to lessen the force of the ties that bind us together as Masonic Templars. That the Grand Encampment has thus far, with all its short-comings, been the means of promoting a large share of the prosperity of the Order, seems to me too clear for question. In the future, I deem its moderating force to be no less necessary than in the past. Without some such body there is great danger of disruption. In many quarters there is a demand for independence of the Lodge and Chapter. Other vexed questions would probably prove the wedges which would rend apart one jurisdiction from another, and I fear the result of attempting to live without a head would be far from successful.

Beside the essential limitation of the powers to such matters as it can bring the Order into substantial agreement upon, the Grand Encampment has been hampered by two causes, both of which we have hoped were temporary in character, and which would soon pass away. The assembly about its triennial meeting of a great display of Sir Knights, with all the pomp of arms and the other concomitants which have so long attended its meetings have seriously impaired its ability to do the duties devolved upon it, and the mere election of office bearers has almost come to be the principal business transacted. Men will not sit down to the dry details of business with unstirred pulses while so much is going on about them calling for their participation and enjoyment. If the grand pageant must be had, it would be well to contrive some other time than the business session of the Grand Encampment, if such a thing be possible. The controversy about the printing, with all its consequences, has also interfered with the business to an entirely inordinate degree. The Grand Recorder may or may not have done that part of his duty wisely. The committee substituted are in the same case, but the quarrel has disturbed the workings of the Grand Encampment to a degree not creditable to any who are connected with it. But this quarrel must in the nature of things be temporary.

In the utterances from several jurisdictions are complaints about the distribution of offices, and growlings about *rings*, with recommendations of the formation of counter rings to smash those complained of.

Such complaints are always likely to arise, and when well founded, will generally be found in a short time to correct themselves, and in any event are hardly creditable as motives for breaking up the organization.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir DON HERMAN WOODWARD, Keene, elected Grand Commander.

Sir GEORGE PERLEY CLEAVES, Concord, re-elected Grand Recorder.

NEW JERSEY.

THE twenty-seventh annual conclave was held in the city of Trenton, commencing September 8, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir THOMAS W. TILDEN, Grand Commander.

Sir CHARLES BECHTEL, Grand Recorder.

Fourteen subordinate Commanderies represented. Nine Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

We give the Grand Commander's opening, as follows:

We meet in this our twenty-seventh annual conclave with ranks unbroken, and with life and health and their attendant blessings. For these great privileges we should, as men and Templars, acknowledge with grateful hearts our gratitude to Almighty God, and invoke His presence among us during our deliberations.

We meet to review the past year, render an account of our stewardship, and provide for the future. I trust zeal for the good of our Order may so inspire our actions that the same peace and harmony may be continued in our entire jurisdiction as now exist.

I have not received a complaint of any kind, nor have I been asked for an official decision during the past year.

Meeting to-day for the transaction of the business of our annual conclave in this new Temple, so beautiful in design, perfect in architecture and convenient in its arrangements, erected by the earnest and untiring efforts of the great brotherhood of which we are so proud to

be known as members, we find abundant cause for hearty congratulation, inasmuch as we now feel that we have a Masonic home and an abiding place at our Templar center which we can truly call our own.

INVASION.

On the great question of invasion, the Grand Commander makes the following sensible remarks and recommendations:

I have been asked to grant permission to Commanderies of this jurisdiction to pass into the territory of sister jurisdictions, and for Commanderies to pass within the borders of our jurisdiction.

While I have always granted these permissions cheerfully, I have felt that this custom of asking permission to pass from one jurisdiction to another has become ridiculously absurd, is a tax upon the time and patience of those in official position, and has nothing to recommend its continuance, and I suggest that the Grand Commandery of New Jersey adopt a resolution abolishing the necessity of asking or granting permissions of this character, and extending a cordial invitation to any body of Knights Templar to visit this jurisdiction whenever and as often as they feel disposed to do so.

And the committee on doings of grand officers report as follows thereon:

Your committee fully coincide with the Grand Commander in reference to permissions being granted to pass through this or other jurisdictions, and trust that his recommendation will be adopted.

THOSE CIRCULARS.

On the "New York and Pennsylvania circulars," the committee on jurisprudence and grievances say:

Concerning the circulars received from the Grand Commanderies of New York and Pennsylvania, relative to proposed amendments to the constitution of the Grand Encampment of the United States, your committee would say that whilst recognizing the courtesy due to sister jurisdictions, we do not feel warranted in recommending any action at this time, as it is too serious a subject to be considered in the brief period allowed at this annual conclave, and that if any action be desired, the subject be referred to a special committee, which shall report at the next annual conclave, there being time for such a report before the next Grand Encampment.

Proceedings local in their character.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir Knight Bechtel writes the report on correspondence.

It is a synopsis of everything done and said in thirty jurisdictions, Michigan for 1885 among the number.

ARKANSAS.

He refers to what Arkansas says relative to the "dangers" of the Grand Encampment, and says:

We do not agree with him in his predictions of utter ruin should we have no Grand Encampment. Every state has a Grand Lodge, and no Grand Lodge finds it necessary to have a general head. Lodge work differs very much throughout the United States, but a Mason can make himself known wherever he may happen to be, and we think that a Knight Templar could do the same.

So say we all !

IOWA.

Under Iowa, he says of Sir Guilbert's report:

Sir Guilbert is very emphatic in his remarks whenever the Grand Encampment is mentioned. We agree with him that that body has sadly departed from the good old way, and has, of late years, simply met to have a good time in some city where a large display is possible, and no time left to legislate for the advancement of Templarism.

But while we agree with him in some of his fault-finding, we utterly dissent from the view expressed, that the Grand Encampment is a useless appendage, and ought to be abolished. Great good could be accomplished if members of the body would attend its conclaves, assist in its deliberations, and set an example of diligence in promoting the good of Templar Masonry, instead of staying away from its conclaves, and then finding fault because nothing has been done.

Sir Guilbert "assisted" at the conclave in 1868, in the city of St. Louis, when lamented Frank Gouley was Grand Commander, and Sir Agler one of the committee of arrangements. We saw Sir Guilbert assisting at the Southern hotel, (and it wasn't in homœopathic doses, either,) and he then appeared a hale fellow well met, and we are sorry to see how much he has soured since that time. Attend the next triennial, inaugurate a new departure, if found necessary, (we expect to be on hand, and will "assist.")

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir JOHN H. ACKERMAN, Jersey City, elected Grand Commander.

Sir CHARLES BECHTEL, Trenton, re-elected Grand Recorder.

NEW YORK.

THE seventy-second annual conclave was held in the city of Rochester, commencing October 13, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir PETER FORRESTER, Grand Commander.

Sir ROBERT MACOY, Grand Recorder.

Fifty-five subordinate Commanderies represented. Nine Past Grand Commanders present.

THE GRAND COMMANDER.

The Grand Commander was unable to be present, owing to serious illness, and the following telegram was ordered sent him:

“The Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, of the state of New York, in annual conclave assembled, at the very threshold of its business sends fraternal sympathy, and deeply regrets the absence of its Right Eminent Grand Commander.”

DECISIONS.

The following decisions were made during the year:

Can a dimit be granted a Sir Knight having charges preferred against him?

ANSWER.—A dimit can not be granted a Sir Knight having charges against him.

Must all members be notified for special conclave?

ANSWER.—A notice, containing business to be transacted, must be sent to every member for special conclave of the Commandery.

Can a Royal Arch Mason dimitted from his Chapter receive Orders of Knighthood, or is a Knight Templar's standing in his Commandery affected by his dimitting from his Chapter?

ANSWER.—A dimitted Royal Arch Mason is eligible to receive the Orders of Knighthood; dimitting from his Chapter does not affect a Sir Knight's standing in his Commandery.

Is a printed ballot legal at elections?

ANSWER.—A printed ballot is legal.

To what date must a Sir Knight, having been suspended for non-payment of dues, pay, in order to be restored in his Commandery?

ANSWER.—A Sir Knight having been suspended for non-payment of dues, must pay to date of restoration.

Has the Eminent Commander a right to refuse admittance to conclaves of his Commandery of Sir Knights who are not properly clothed as such, unless first excused by the Eminent Commander?

ANSWER.—The statutes require all officers and members in attendance at the Grand Encampment and Grand Commandery, to be uniformed as Knights Templar, unless excused by the grand body, which applies equally to subordinate Commanderies.

Can a Commandery receive and act upon petitions for affiliation of Sir Knights now members of another Commandery?

ANSWER.—A Commandery can receive and act upon petitions for affiliation from members of another Commandery; but he must dimit from former Commandery before becoming a member of the latter.

A companion having been elected to receive the Orders of Knighthood in a Commandery, but before receiving them removes to another state, and after eight years returns, can the Commandery confer the Orders without a new application, ballot, and payment of fees?

ANSWER.—It can not; the applicant must proceed as at first; twelve months' absence being the limit, as per article second, section twenty-two, amended in 1877.

Can a Sir Knight in good standing be suspended by the Commandery in consequence of having been suspended for non-payment of dues, by either Lodge or Chapter? And, is the Commandery compelled to suspend a Sir Knight when official notice of suspension for non payment of dues is given by the Chapter to the Commandery?

Being very ill at the time, I referred this matter to Right Eminent Sir Charles Roome, Acting Grand Master, whose decision is herewith annexed:

"The whole case is simple when we take into consideration our own statutes and the code of the Grand Encampment; and the matter will be made clear if we reflect that such suspension as will deprive a brother or companion of his Masonic rights, must be for some Masonic offense greater than non-payment of dues; neither Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter can make a law binding upon us which imposed the same penalty for a neglect as for a crime, nor can it be argued that unaffiliation is such an offense against Masonic law as the violation of the moral or civil law. We freely admit that every Mason ought to be a member of a Lodge, and contribute to its expenses, but we do not and can not admit for one moment that any greater penalty can be admin-

istered to a delinquent for dues than a deprivation of membership, which cannot be accepted as affecting his Templar standing."

The committee on Templar jurisprudence, to whom the decisions were referred, submitted the following report, which was adopted:

The committee on Templar jurisprudence respectfully report, that they have carefully considered the several decisions of the R. E. Grand Commander referred to them, and find them in accordance with the written law and usage of this jurisdiction. They therefore recommend the passage of the following resolution:

Resolved. That the several decisions of the R. E. Grand Commander, as set forth in his address read at this grand conclave, be, and they are hereby approved.

Your committee, however, are constrained to say that, in their judgment, the fifth of said decisions, which refers to the continued accumulation of dues, after a member has been suspended for non-payment of dues, has its foundation rather in the existing regulations than in sound reason and common sense.

Suspension for such a cause is often, if not usually, the result of misfortune. By that act all the privileges of membership are taken away. The Commandery thereafter pays no Grand Commandery dues for one so situated, and to all intents and purposes he is no longer a member.

It seems a strange inconsistency, while giving him none of the advantages of membership, or in any other way regarding him as a member, to continue to charge him with dues as though he were one. His past dues stand rightfully charged against him, and should be paid in full before restoration, but it is illogical to add to these the accumulations of perhaps years to come, during which he is in no proper sense a member of the Commandery. A few years will almost inevitably build up what, to him, may prove an insurmountable barrier to his restoration.

We believe that this rule works injury both to the Commandery and to the individual. To the former in the ultimate loss of many who, in their more prosperous times, would by payment and restoration become valuable members of the body; and to the latter, by adding unnecessarily to the burdens of misfortune, and thus depriving him of advantages and privileges which would tend to make him a better man.

In accordance with these ideas, we recommend the following amendment to the statutes and regulations of this Grand Commandery:

That the last sentence of article XLVII be amended so as to read as follows: "Such suspension to cease upon payment of all dues to date of suspension."

REPRESENTATIVES.

Sir Peter Forrester submitted the following, which was adopted:

WHEREAS, The appointment of special representatives of the Grand Master has been approved by the Grand Encampment of the United States, therefore

Resolved, That hereafter the Grand Master of Knights Templar of the Grand Encampment of the United States, be invested with power to appoint eighteen Right Eminent Sir Knights to represent the Grand Master in various parts of the United States; also, to give said representatives rank and title in this grand body, and to hold office during the term of office of the Grand Master appointing them.

GRAND RECORDER'S REPORT.

The Grand Recorder submits a most interesting report. He gives in detail the work pertaining to his office, then branches into a general history of the rise and progress (so to express it) of Templar history, with which his many years of service have made him familiar. We quote the following from the report:

In my official report of 1877, nine years since, I offered a brief review of such events in the knightly history of our State as had passed under my own observation since 1851, the year in which I appeared as the representative of Morton Encampment, No. 4, in this grand body, when I was honored by election as Grand Recorder. Nearly every frater who was active in this Grand Encampment (as it was then called) in 1851, has passed into the country where the hail-storms no more beat upon them, and the heaviest burdened wayfarer has laid down his weary load. Looking over my review of 1876, I find only the names of John L. Lewis, John W. Simons, Chas. G. Judd, James Batchellor, A. Colo Veloni, and John S. Perry remaining upon our rolls, who, up to 1856, had participated in the government of this Grand Commandery.

Being more and more sensibly reminded of the inaudible and noiseless passage of time, I am not vain enough to believe that I may be permitted to assemble with you in annual conclave many years to come. I feel impelled, however, while yet blessed with strength, health, and ability as your Grand Recorder, to review such events in the his-

tory of our Order, since 1875, as possess peculiar interest and have been particularly impressed upon my mind. And first, for a moment, taking a retrospective view outside of our own jurisdiction, I recall the striking fact of the removal by death of those choice spirits—so witty, so original, yet so amiable and enlightened, whose courteous sentiments came to us year by year in their reports on correspondence to the various Grand Commanderies. I allude particularly to Corson, of New Jersey; Dove, of Virginia; Gouley, of Missouri, and Langridge, of Iowa. It was a great loss to the knightly Orders when these Christian warriors were called away. It was such a bereavement as will be felt when our own Simons; Carson, of Ohio; Brown, of Kansas; Innes, of Michigan; Woodruff, of Kentucky; Sayre, of Alabama; Power of Mississippi; Pierson, of Minnesota; Berry, of Maine; Mayo, of Missouri; Caswell, of California; Ruckle, of Indiana; Parvin, of Iowa; and the reporters yet living, shall lay aside the pen under the irresistible stroke of death. Our loss, we may hope, will be their gain, yet we shall feel it none the less keenly.

During the ten years to which the present recollections extend, the Grand Encampment of the United States has had three triennial conclaves, and it is a subject of pride, natural and proper, that I should refer to the fact that one of our Past Grand Commanders now wields the baculus of that exalted body. None of the long line of faithful veterans who have given time, zeal, and genius to build up Freemasonry in its several departments in New York, better deserves honorable mention than Sir Charles Roome. "A name untarnished, wielding a blade unsullied, its point of hospitality dignified and grand." Long may he live to enjoy our love and respect.

The increase of Templar literature during the last ten years has scarcely kept pace with the growth of the Order. Several of the Grand Recorders, committees, and reporters have embodied valuable historical hints in their several papers, which throw light upon the origin of Templary; and the veteran Templar, Col. McLeod Moore, Great Prior of Canada, has given us, in his annual Allocution, the facts gathered from his large correspondence, but none thus far have satisfactorily supplied the link that separates the Templarism of De Molay, A. D. 1312, from that of Thomas Smith Webb, A. D. 1800. It is not to the credit of our Order, boasting of its five hundred Commanderies and 50,000 fratres, that such absence of facts should exist in its history. Let us hope that the efforts of a Hughan, in England, may be supplemented with those of Carson in Ohio, and Moore in Canada, to establish our genealogy, through a pure, four-quartered descent that will touch every year in the six centuries that thus challenge us for proof.

Of the dead of our jurisdiction since 1875, it behooves me not here to speak. As one by one they laid down their cross-hilted swords and resigned themselves to the will of the King of Death, the Grand Commandery was not unmindful of their merits. They were duly mourned. For their knightly service they were eulogized, as our records amply show. The rewards of gallant Templars were theirs in tears of regret, and expressed in abounding praise from sorrowing friends.

Reading the eulogies which adorn the pages of our proceedings, one is constrained to say with the ancient seer, "May I die the death of the righteous, and may my last end be like his." It becomes me, as your Grand Recorder during thirty-four years of continuous service, to say that our annual conclaves have been to me and to most of them who attended them, scenes and occasions of unalloyed enjoyment. I am confident that I speak for a thousand Templars, living and dead, when I say the very happiest memories which cluster around the various cities of this state, are associated with those meetings. What heartiness of greeting; what words of gracious welcome; what sparkling eyes and happy faces crowd upon the recollections as we call them over, one by one. And while the young have become middle-aged, and the middle-aged have become old, and the old have passed into the shadowy land, new recruits for this delightful service are presented year by year, and our ranks are ever full. Long may this state of things continue. And if, as some think, we have Commanderies enough, and the number of Templars in our jurisdiction is out of proportion to that of Lodge membership, these are matters that will always regulate themselves, and they need cause us no anxiety. It is safe to hope that there will always be judgment and intelligence enough to meet questions as they come up, however novel and startling.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The report on correspondence is signed by the entire committee, but to the first name—John W. Simons—must, we think, be attributed the work.

Good, faithful friend and Sir Knight Simons, we greet you! May you long be spared to give Templar Masonry the benefit of your years and years of study as a writer. New York reports on correspondence and the name of John W. Simons are so closely connected that when we see one we look for the other. Twenty-nine states are courteously reviewed, Michigan for 1885 among the number.

MICHIGAN.

Under Michigan, he says:

New York for 1884 has full notice, with copious citation. He seems to think rather small beer of the action of New York in unanimously rejecting the proposition to secede from the Grand Encampment, but as it received the unanimous sanction of the body to which it was made, we are inclined to adopt the remark of the boy when the hen bit him, "That settles it."

We are honest, Sir John, in our opinion on that subject. The report, even if just the very way to "settle it," would have had a better appearance if written and presented by those not immediately interested in the outcome; but, Sir John, the thought of meeting you at these triennials does much to reconcile us to a continuance of them. "Ta-Ta!"

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir PETER FORRESTER, New York City, re-elected Grand Commander.

Sir ROBERT MACOY, New York City, (of course,) re-elected Grand Recorder.



NORTH CAROLINA.

THE fifth annual conclave was held in the city of Asheville, commencing August 26, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir EUGENE GRISSOM, Grand Commander.

Sir JAMES C. MUNDS, Grand Recorder.

Six subordinate Commanderies represented.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander leads the Sir Knights through the early days of Knighthood, and makes his address so interesting, as well as historical, that we quote largely from it, as follows:

The existence of Masonry is one of the great facts of time. It has

been opposed, persecuted, banished; yet it still lives, and every revolving age extends its empire, and renews its dominion over the heart of man.

There is no home too lowly for its mission, no palace too princely for its welcome. It marches with the soldier to the field of arms; it sails with the explorer through unknown seas; it teaches the workman and the sage; it relieves the burdened, comforts the sorrowing, soothes the dying, and delivers the dead, when their labors are finished, to the final judgment of the Great Architect of the Universe.

The purest among mankind have rejoiced to drink from its fountains; the greatest of Americans, the Father of his Country, served before its altars, and wore the lambskin, more ancient than the Golden Fleece. Kings are proud of the honors it bestows upon their inherited scepters. The Pope of to-day, no less than those of past ages, thunders his anathemas against Masonry, for history teaches him to recognize the most powerful foe of ecclesiastical slavery.

This mighty force in society prevades the regions of the civilized world as noiselessly as gravitation rules the masses of matter. Silently, like the fall of the snowflake, its vast influence spreads over the lands. To the profane, its being is an enigma; to the historian, it is a veritable Spinix, looking with commanding eyes upon the great desert of humanity, while the sands of ages cover the fair proportions of her past.

The things of *earth* and *time* are perishable; parchments decay, tablets rust, columns fall, temples topple into ruin, written language itself loses its votaries, as whole peoples vanish from the earth, and speech once familiar becomes an unknown tongue, locking up the secrets of nations. It is no wonder, therefore, that great lacunæ exist in any historic records that reach into the indefinite past.

And yet human nature survives the wreck of nations and the lapse of time. As link by link the children of the earth, though untraceable in any definite family, are surely the progeny of their ancient ancestors, so surely have they borne with them the heritage of a common *human nature*.

The physical and moral demands of that nature repeat themselves throughout the world. The building crumbles, but the handicraft remains. Men pass away, but their influences live. Their bodies mingle with the dust of the valley, but the sum of human knowledge accumulates. Every knightly act adds to the moral wealth of mankind. The *wisest* and the *best* are closely allied. Indeed, wisdom and goodness become one and the same omnipotent power, as they melt into eternal truth.

All knowledge has come from the great East on its way to the setting sun. As the Aryan spread westward from the plains of the Oxus, civilization went with him. As the wants of human nature were felt, and the means of supply were discovered, at every step of progress, communication was essential, and symbolism supplied the universal tongue. From the Nile and the Euphrates, the twin mathematics of life and structure went to Phœnicia and Palestine, and the ancient world turned its gaze from the Pyramids of Egypt to the Temple of Solomon.

It would not be without interest, were this the fitting occasion, to trace the onward progress of architectural art, and its accompanying symbolism from the Levant to the Tiber, and thence by the Roman Collegia, in the fullness of time, throughout Western Europe, and with the eagles of Cæsar into Britain. The darkness that falls upon history for centuries after that period, is not without such occasional lights as careful study reveals to the pains-taking students. Such facts as the existence of guilds with the general objects of the craft, and their convocation at York in the tenth century, cannot be denied—nor the connection therewith of many English monarchs, from Edward the Confessor to Charles II. Nor need I dwell upon the expansion of speculative Masonry shortly after the termination of the labors of many years in the completion of St. Paul's in 1708. About to separate, many of the builders, perhaps, in the declining years of life, it is natural that they should have desired to transmit to posterity the blessings which accompanied the system which had been the heirloom of ages; the natural symbolism of man; the system and order indispensable to the construction of the grandest architecture, and the knowledge which is the result of long continued responsibility in great undertakings.

It was to be expected that the spirit of Masonry, in union with the holy precepts of the Christian religion, should blaze forth in a new manifestation of glory in the Knight Templar.

In the early ages of Christianity, its own rites were conducted in secret. Its own membership was in three orders, from the baptized to those admitted to the consecrated cup. Its architecture was symbolical, its traditions numerous, and its ceremonials suggestive.

When we read of the capture of Jerusalem from the Paynim by the Crusaders in 1099, to realize the greatness of the undertaking, we should remember that three and a half centuries *before*, Abdelrahman had imperilled all Christendom before the walls of Tours, and that three and a half centuries subsequent to the taking of Jerusalem, the proud mistress of the Bosphorus fell into the arms of the Turk, who made Europe tremble in front of Vienna. Who knows to day but that

the Christian blood spilt in Palestine saved civilization from its struggle with the infidel, until it was fortified for the fray, in the fullness of time?

When we reflect that the Knight Templar renounced the pleasures and luxuries of mankind, the allurements of ambition, and the acquisition of gain, to set before himself as the ideals of existence the knowledge of his Heavenly Master, and the relief of suffering, even at the risk of his own life, we feel that the nine glorious points of our Star commemorate men who had passed through no ordinary school of self-denial. Such men must have been the product of a training inspired by the principles of Masonry and consecrated by the Cross.

The earnest Knight will not fail to find instruction in the legends of the early Knights Templar—from the days of Baldwin's gift of the Temple, to the erection of the Sanctuary in London, which still remains to hold the bones of the sacred dead—and down the line of the twenty-two Grand Masters, from De Payens to De Molay, with the tragic tale of his martyrdom. History has her silent but eloquent commentaries in the Masonic symbols which yet remain upon the remains of Templar art throughout Europe, and notably so, in the ornamentation of the home of the Knights of St. John, at Malta. The significance will not be lost upon Masons, of the presence, in many graves of Templars, of the "small white cube stone" found with the perishing relics of mortality.

With the seizure of its property, the murder of its chief, and the dispersion of its Knights, under ban, throughout Europe, the enemies of the Order triumphed in its apparent annihilation. But it is reasonable to consider that the men who had consecrated their lives to the furtherance of its principles and spent a life-time in the practice of its mysteries were not without means of mutual recognition abroad, or wanting in courage and faith to transmit its secrets to chosen successors.

Six lines of Templar organization appear and reappear in various parts of Europe during the four centuries succeeding, whether in isolated encampments, or as imparting degrees of the Templar rites to allied Masonic bodies, the annals of which this is not the time and place to discuss.

The learned Sir Knight Macoy has recently endeavored to show the transmission of the Order to the United States in the latter half of the eighteenth century, probably proceeding from the English branch, deriving its origin from the ancient Preceptory of Bristol, which, although dissolved by Papal authority, reappeared at a later date in the Encampments of London, Bath, and other cities.

I venture to suggest, so far as it may go to confirm the historian's

view, that Bristol once occupied the position of Liverpool, as the great port of colonial commerce. The colonists shipped their tobacco from the Chesapeake, and their rice from the Carolina waters, directly to Bristol, and received thence not only the luxuries of the Old World, but their teachers and instructors in the arts.

Prior to the discovery of the influence of the Gulf Stream upon the navigation of the Atlantic, the commercial pre-eminence of New York had not been acknowledged, and Boston, Norfolk, Yorktown, and Charlestown held a rank unlike their present position. It is therefore natural to seek the early records of Masonic bodies, as we indeed find them, in the neighborhood of the centres of commercial intercourse, both in Europe and the colonies, since the social wants of man are developed in the midst of the highest activities.

But there are reasons, needless to detail, for the belief that Templar Masonry, like many of the great benefactions of the race, came to us from various sources, upon the development of a new home for free thought and action beyond the Western Ocean.

To-day, sixty thousand Knights, in this country alone, of the flower of American strength and enterprise, muster under the Cross, and hearken to its legendary watchery, sounding through the ages, "In hoc signo vinces."

TRANSACTIONS.

The transactions are local in their character.

The entertainment part appears to have been well attended to, for we find that, on Thursday afternoon, the Grand Commandery visited Richmond Hill, carriages having been provided by Cyrene Commandery, No. 5. The afternoon was pleasant and the ride was greatly enjoyed by all.

In the evening, the banquet at the Eagle Hotel was a "grand" affair! The supper, the wine, the toasts and the responses were all good, and the presence of the ladies added very greatly to the enjoyment of the evening. Every one was loud in his praise of the hospitality of the Sir Knights of Cyrene Commandery, No. 5.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir James Southgate writes the report on correspondence. It is a most readable digest of the doings of thirty three-grand bodies, including Michigan for 1885. We give his modest bow to the corps:

We thought our report in 1883, which was our first, would be our last, but by a kind Providence we have been permitted once more to enjoy our wonted health, and having been assigned the onerous but pleasant duty of reporter, we have endeavored to perform the work to the best of our ability, as time could be taken from pressing business engagements. We ask indulgence for shortcomings, and with the hope that something may be said which will profit, we give the list of proceedings reviewed, and begin our journey.

“Shortcomings” is good; “craving indulgence” is funny! Oh, no, Sir Knight; as the boys say, that is “too thin!” You are, as it were, a veteran, and need no sympathy nor help.

ARKANSAS.

On the question of uniform, under Arkansas, he says:

Our Grand Commandery has spoken in no uncertain terms on this subject. We think the solemn promise to purchase a uniform should be required of every applicant, or the price should be included in the fees for the Orders. A Templar without a uniform is as a parrot without feathers. He can talk all the same, but is *no good* to exhibit.

In our jurisdiction the Sir Knight is obliged to furnish his uniform before receiving the Order of the Temple.

THE TRINITY.

Even at the expense of having “chestnuts” hurled at us, we give his comment on Gurney’s report for 1884, while talking on the Trinity:

We can but differ with Sir Knight Gurney in his definition of Templarism. If it is distinct from the lodge in anything it is “*par excellence*” the fact that the Savior does bear peculiar relations to the Father. Else why exclude the Jew? We hold that no Deist or Atheist can take upon himself the vows of Knighthood, but must acknowledge his belief in the “adorable Trinity.” This constitutes the marked difference between Lodge and Commandery. In the former we must believe in God, and in the latter, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. The Jew cannot conform, and hence is excluded; the Christian can, and hence is admitted. Exclude the Cross, and where is Templary? We not only think “American Templar” has a shadow of relation to the mediæval institution, but we get from that the essence of the Orders as we have them. We hope the next “good sermon” this good Sir

Knight hears just before writing on the Trinity again, will put him more in harmony with Sir Munson's views on this all-absorbing subject. We thank you, Sir Knight, for kind mention of our report, which was our first and written under so many difficulties. We could hardly expect to merit the commendation of any one of the "Mutuals." We can't reach perfection in this line, in the estimation of Sir Knight Gurney, until we get to writing our reports "on Sundays after good sermons," and if this is the test we fear we shall never reach so high on the ladder as our able frater has climbed. We leave this report reluctantly and hope to meet him again some day.

INDIANA.

Under Indiana, on the question of non-payment of dues, he says, and very justly, (personally) we think:

The question of the penalty for non-payment of dues has vexed and harrassed every Lodge, Chapter, and Commandery in this country. The reporters have written volumes upon it and yet there is no uniformity, either in the rulings of our grand officers or the legislation of our grand bodies. We had hoped all would, some time, agree to what a majority of the jurisdictions had adopted, namely: That striking from the roll should be the penalty for non-payment of dues. We confess we cannot disconnect the idea of suspension and crime of some degree. It also supposes the idea of a ballot, for suspension without ballot is at variance with all usage in the past, and how the idea of crime can be attached to the non-payment of dues is beyond our ken.

We are glad to note the merited promotion of Sir Bain. He is a right good fellow, as we know him in another body, and we say, shake!

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir DONALD W. BAIN, Raleigh, elected Grand Commander.

Sir JAMES C. MUNDS, Statesville, re-elected Grand Recorder.

OHIO.

THE forty-third annual conclave was held in Cleveland, commencing October 8, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir CHARLES E. STANLEY, as Grand Commander.

Sir JAMES NESBITT, Grand Recorder.

Thirty-nine subordinate Commanderies represented. Seven Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander was unexpectedly called home, owing to the illness of his father, and his address was submitted by the Deputy Grand Commander.

VISITORS.

Sir B. D. Babcock introduced Sir E. T. Schultz, Past Eminent Grand Captain-General of the Grand Encampment of the United States, and Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Maryland, who was duly received and conducted to a seat in the east. Also, Sir George M. Osgoodby, M. P. Grand Master of the M. P. General Grand Council of R. and S. M. of the United States, arrived, was introduced and conducted to a seat in the east.

DECISIONS.

The following decisions were made during the year and practically approved by the committee on jurisprudence:

FIRST QUESTION.—“Can a Sir Knight holding the office of Senior Warden in an existing Commandery, become an applicant for a dispensation for a new Commandery?”

ANSWER.—Yes; but he should resign his office when such dispensation is granted, as his membership in the old Commandery remains in a state of suspense during the existence of the dispensation, and he could not serve in the dual capacity of Senior Warden in the old Commandery, and active membership in the new.

SECOND QUESTION.—“ Nine Knights Templar, properly qualified, desire to obtain the permission of the Commanderies having concurrent jurisdiction, to petition the Grand Commander for a dispensation to organize a new Commandery :

FIRST.—“ Can this request be considered at any stated meeting of the Commandery above mentioned, and this without giving previous notice of the intention of the petitioners ? ”

SECOND.—“ Is it legal and proper for the presiding officer, upon such an occasion, to refuse to entertain a motion granting the petitioners the request asked, and to order the subject laid over to a future meeting ? ”

ANSWER TO FIRST QUESTION.—Yes. The code of statutes does not require such notice. However, so important a matter as an action looking towards the formation of a new Commandery, should receive the most careful consideration. In my opinion it is fully as important as a petition for the Orders, although the code does not place the same restrictions upon it.

ANSWER TO SECOND QUESTION.—Yes. The autocratic power of the Eminent Commander makes him the only and final arbiter of questions of order in the Commandery ; he may, therefore, declare that the motion is not in order, or, that it would be improper to entertain it, and decide that it shall not be received, or laid over to a future meeting ; and from his decision there can be no appeal to the Commandery. This is a reiteration of a well-defined and established Masonic law, and is cited in this connection only because the second question is connected with the first.

Pursuant to the urgent request of a number of prominent members of Mount Vernon Commandery, No. 1, I visited and presided at their stated conclave, on October 30, 1884. At this conclave charges were preferred against eighteen of its members, for violating article one, section thirteen of the code of statutes and regulations of the Grand Commandery of Ohio, and the accused required to make answer thereto at the next stated conclave, November 27, at which time I was again present and presided ; likewise, at a special conclave, December 4, 1884. During the sessions of these several conclaves, numerous questions requiring my official decision and construction of law were presented. I deem it necessary to report only such as are not clearly defined by our own code of statutes and regulations :

1. Motion by defense : “ To quash and dismiss, on the ground that the accused were not required to withdraw from said so-called clandestine and irregular Masonic bodies, in accordance with article one, sec-

tion thirteen of the statutes and regulations of the Grand Commandery of Ohio."

Motion over-ruled. Held: that article one, section thirteen does not imply that formal demand should be made upon a member who has united himself with clandestine Masonry to withdraw therefrom, or that such action upon the part of his Commandery would be prerequisite to taking jurisdiction of the charge.

Our state government fixes penalties for violation of its statutes, but I have never known an offender against the law to move for dismissal on the ground that he had never been required to abstain from such violation. Every opportunity was extended the accused to retrace their steps and resume allegiance to the Grand Commandery of Ohio, but it could not be expected that such privilege would be accorded them after conviction. "It would be an error in a Commandery to sustain a charge, and then refuse to inflict punishment."

That the accused violated the law with a full knowledge of the consequences, there can be no doubt, and they lost their membership at the expense of their disobedience.

2. Eighteen members were indicted, conjointly, for the same offense—motion by counsel for severance. Motion over-ruled on the ground that whatever individual right the several accused might have to a separate trial, it should be subordinated to what was necessary for the protection of the Commandery, and conducive to the good of the Order. The individual rights of the accused could in no manner be prejudiced by this ruling, but it can be readily seen that separate trials must result disastrously to the Commandery. To summons the members night after night to participate in the tedious and monotonous progress of a trial, would soon wear the Commandery out; and this seems to have been the only motive the defense had in view, as no testimony whatever was presented by them to disprove the charges, although every facility was offered them to do so.

The original minutes, and all papers appertaining to the trial, are herewith submitted.

THE A. A. S. RITE.

The Grand Commander appears to have the Ohio nightmare of "genuine" A. A. S. R. bodies, and the great wrong put upon them by "somebody," for on that subject he says:

Issues of sufficient import to endanger the peace and harmony of the institution are pending.

During the past year, as you have already been informed, a number of Knights Templar of the jurisdictions were indicted for violat-

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ing the statutes and regulations of the Grand Commandery of Ohio, and I am pleased to report that in each case of conviction, the penalty prescribed by the code was promptly inflicted. Persistent effort has been made to shield the offenders by the adoption of resolutions derogatory to the Commanderies enforcing the law. Has it come to this, that a Knight Templar may trample the law under foot with impunity, and then defy the authority of his Commandery, or that of the Grand Commandery, to take jurisdiction of such offense? The plea that the Grand Commandery can not maintain its statutes and regulations against clandestine Masonry, and that it might with the same propriety legislate against the Christian Church, the Knights of Pythias, the Odd Fellows, etc., is absurd. Do these organizations make any claim whatever to be Masonic? Or do they antagonize the peace and harmony of any established Masonic rite? There can be but one answer: No! It cannot be presumed that the defiance of law manifested, is ostensibly in the interest of clandestine Masonry, yet you are called upon to-day to vote for an amendment favoring free trade in Masonic rites and degrees. Will the Grand Commandery of Ohio submit to have its purposes dwarfed and its usefulness limited by surrendering its prerogatives? Shall the safe-guards established by the fathers of Templar Masonry in Ohio, be removed, and the banner of the Order trailed in the dust to accommodate the insurrection?

Each one of us must answer that question *pro* or *con*. May the record of these answers add another barrier to disloyalty! A temporizing policy against invasion will surely involve us in complications which must result disastrously to the perpetuity of our institution.

The assertion has been made that as Templars, we cannot judge as to the legitimacy of the so-called higher degrees conferred by the "Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite." Has not the "A. A. S. Rite," whose Grand Consistory is established in the city of Cincinnati, been recognized for almost half a century by all of the Masonic bodies in Ohio, as legitimate Masonry? If the opponents of article one, section thirteen, are in sympathy with the Cerneau Scottish rite bodies—established in Ohio during the past two years—then their effort to eliminate that law is explained. Recognition of both is not consistent, neither is indifference consistent; according to the fundamental laws of Masonry, there can not be two Masonic grand bodies in the same jurisdiction; there can be but one legitimate Grand Lodge, one Grand Chapter, one Grand Commandery, and one Grand Consistory in a State. If the law adopted by the Grand Commandery of Ohio forty years ago served the purpose of self protection then, it is a good law now. I am for the law as it is—if wrong, repeal it. In view of the fact that I assumed the

obligation as your Grand Commander to be loyal to the constitutions of the Order, to the laws of the Grand Commandery of Ohio; and with due deference to the recommendation of the committee on jurisprudence adopted at our last session, "that the Grand Commander cause proceedings promptly to be taken against those offending against the law," I feel justified in the performance of my part of the contract.

If Masonic edicts can be set aside through caprice or individual dissatisfaction, or disappointment, what becomes of Masonic government? Sir Knights, let us stand as the firm defenders of truth, honor, and justice!

What his obligation as Grand Commander has to do with "Moore's Scottish Rite business," we fail to see.

CHARGES.

Sir Charles C. Keifer rose to a question of privilege and presented six great big charges and specifications against Reverend Henry D. Moore. How a Grand Commandery can entertain charges and specifications against an outsider—for from the proceedings he is not even called a Sir Knight—we fail to see.

JURISPRUDENCE.

This is from the committee on jurisprudence, to whom the Grand Commander's address was referred:

We find nothing in that part of the address under the head of "Clandestine Masonry," directly involving any question of Templar jurisprudence. Your committee, however, have investigated the historical facts connected with the first introduction and continuance with unimportant changes, to the present time. We find that article one, section thirteen, in the statutes and regulations of this Grand Commandery, has been passed upon and adopted at three different and distinct periods from each other in the history of this grand body. *First*, at the formation in 1843-4; *second*, in 1857; *third*, in 1868. Upon the last occasion a change of only a word or two was made, substituting Supreme Councils 33°, for Consistory, as in the statutes as originally adopted. We are informed by one of the active participants in the revision of the statutes and regulations in 1868, that after having the same under consideration by a committee for fully a year, and after discussing the various changes, section by section, in open Grand Commandery, the statutes and regulations as now in force were adopted by a unanimous vote. When the statutes were amended in 1868, there were

but two Supreme Councils, the northern and southern, in the United States, and the Consistory as formerly used in the statutes had ceased to be a governing or chief body in the Scottish rite system.

We also learn that the most active and leading party now connected with the so-called Cerneau Supreme Council, was at the time of the revision in 1868, a member of the Grand Commandery, and held the second office in this grand body. We also find that the resolution adopted by the Grand Commandery at its annual session in 1883, was simply a decision defining what was meant by "Supreme Councils of the 33°," as it now stands in article two, section thirteen, and that said resolution in no sense whatever had any amending or repealing effect on the constitution itself.

We fully concur in the views of the R. Em. Grand Commander on the subject of clandestine Masonry. The subject is one of vital importance to the future welfare, prosperity and honor of the Order of the Temple. Demoralization or irregularity, gross violation of the principles of Masonic or Templar law, as universally recognized in our American system of Masonry, can not exist or be encouraged in any one branch of the heretofore recognized Masonic organizations of this country without affecting all the others.

We would especially refer to and utter a word of warning against the danger which now threatens American Masonry in all its branches, high or low, the danger of encouraging, or tolerating, or recognizing in any way the establishing of a *second* governing body in any territory already occupied by a regular Masonic body. Believing that the only safety for our American Masonry, high grade or low grade, is in our firm adherence to and support of that old "Masonic legend," "There can be but one regular Grand Lodge in any state or territory of these United States," and that this ancient Masonic legend is equally applicable to and necessary to every other branch of Masonry.

We find that the present statutes and regulations of this Grand Commandery are all that are necessary for the trial and punishment of Knights Templar who may engage in any way in this grand jurisdiction in the conferring or receiving any kind of irregular Masonic degrees or orders.

On motion of Sir Babcock, the report was accepted and ordered printed in the proceedings for further action.

PROCEEDINGS.

The proceedings of this Grand Commandery are void of interest except to those who desire to glean from them all

about A. A. S. R. Masonry—"that which is pure and that which is impure."

CORRESPONDENCE.

The report on correspondence is from the pen of Sir Enoch T. Carson, which is a full guarantee that it is able and thorough. Although we are constrained sometimes to differ with our friend and Sir Knight, and although he hardly approves of anybody differing with him, we are constrained to say he has our greatest respect, and we honor him for his straightforward battle for what he thinks is the right.

ARKANSAS.

He quotes the following, from the address of the Grand Commander of Arkansas, on the subject of uniform:

"Inasmuch as the Grand Encampment does not see fit to enforce its laws in regard to uniforms, I deem it wise that some action in this matter should be taken by our Grand Commandery."

And says:

The Grand Encampment prescribed and defined the uniform in 1862 quite definite enough for all, except Templar cranks and manufacturers of Templar uniforms; the former never see or understand anything as other people do, and the latter pretend not to understand, because by not understanding they have an opportunity of introducing all kinds of gew gaws and novelties into the Templar costume, thus enabling them to earn an "honest penny" by cultivating the vanity and bad taste of too many members of the Order.

The milliners and dressmakers of Paris understand this trick, and use it for all there is in it, by continually inventing new fashions and styles of bonnets and dresses to beguile the fair sex, to the serious damage of husbands' and fathers' pocket-books.

Our American Templar milliners are imitating their Paris confreres and sisters by their outre inventions of tawdry, grim cracks and gew gaw additions to the plain but dignified gentlemanly Templar costume prescribed by the Grand Encampment of the United States. We know it has become quite common to say that the Grand Encampment has relegated the Templar uniform question to the Grand Commanderies, but it isn't true.

We know it has become common to say that the uniform as prescribed in the statutes is vague, indefinite, and can not be understood. This allegation is not true. It is definite enough for *all who want to*

understand. Take the Grand Encampment definition of a Templar costume to two respectable first-class theatrical costumers remote from each other, and tell each of them that you want a Templar costume, complete outfit, made according to those rules, and that you have no other instructions or explanations to give. We will guarantee that you will have two uniforms alike, and strictly according to regulation, and neither of the costumers will complain that the instructions were not sufficiently explicit for all practical purposes.

The Grand Encampment defined the uniform in 1862. To be sure, in 1874, at New Orleans, the use of the original old American black uniform under certain conditions was legalized, and may be worn to-day in certain cases, but there was no change made, not even the slightest, in the definition of a Knight Templar's uniform, as promulgated and decreed in 1862.

Pennsylvania rigidly conforms to the regulation, and any one who has ever visited that Grand Commandery, will bear testimony that in that body there is uniformity of Templar costume.

The Grand Encampment having fully and plainly defined the uniform, it is the business and the duty of the Grand Commanderies to see that the law is enforced in their jurisdictions, and it is not in good taste, nor is it just for us to be whining and complaining that the supreme body don't enforce the law. And it is in much worse taste for us to say that there is no law.

CANADA.

In his review of Canada, he quotes at length from Sir Moore's address, and says:

He says that in this country, up to the year 1814, the order "was not deemed Masonic in any way."

In this statement Sir Moore is undoubtedly in error. The Order of the Knights Templars was accepted and treated as "high grade Masonry" in the United States long anterior to 1814. Webb's Free-masons Monitor appeared first in 1797. In that edition (section eight,) he says: "Although these degrees (the Templar and Knights of Malta) compose no part of the system of Masonry, yet, as they are not at present conferred on any but Masons, and as many Encampments (now called Commanderies) are established in different parts of the world, *under the sanction of Masons' Lodges*," etc., etc.

We underscore the last words. If the Templar degrees were not "Masonic," why should they be "under the sanction of Masons' Lodges?" etc.

We have now lying before us the constitutions of the Grand Lodge

of the state of New York, published in 1801. In it is an order of *Masonic procession* for certain public occasions, with full instructions to the master of ceremonies as to how it shall be formed. In this programme the Knights Templar are assigned the military or escort position in the procession—at the head.

We find the same Masonic recognition of the Knights Templar in the constitutions of the Grand Lodge of New York, in the next edition, 1805.

There is abundant evidence that the Templars were recognized as a part of the "American Masonic system" at an early day.*

KENTUCKY.

Discussing the uniform question, under Kentucky, he says:

And so the Grand Commandery of Kentucky interprets that metal buttons are the regulation article! Really, this is news to us. It reminds us of the anecdote of a party of gentlemen who were engaged in playing a game of poker on Saturday night.

I guess it was in Kentucky, and it is said that they were all good Baptists or Presbyterians; at all events they had a rule that the game should close at 12 o'clock, as they did not intend to violate the Sabbath. However, upon an occasion when the game had become unusually exciting, and the "hour when church yards yawn, and hell itself breathes contagion," was approaching, and wishing to continue the game, and at the same time not violate the Sabbath, they put it to a vote, and unanimously resolved that the coming day was Tuesday, and so they continued their game without damaging their conscience or violating the law.

So our dear brother Knights of Kentucky, having adopted the brass buttons many years ago, and having worn them with great satisfaction to themselves, and perhaps disgust to some others, close sticklers for regulation uniform, especially Knights hailing from Pennsylvania, who are nothing if not regulation, and being somewhat embarrassed at the criticisms which had been made upon them for their brass button innovation, they sat upon the Grand Encampment regulation, which reads as follows: "Black frock coat, black pantaloons, scarf, sword, belt, shoulder straps, gauntlets, and chapeau, with appropriate trimmings," and they defined it to mean *metal buttons*; that relieved their consciences. It was easy after this main difficulty was disposed

*See the Maryland Ahiman Rezon, 1797; Webb's Monitor, 1802, 1805, 1808; and Proceedings of the Grand Encampment of the United States, 1888, Mackey's History of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina.

of to agree that the "first three officers should wear them in rows, as on coats of military officers of like grade."

"Any color, so that it is red," said the milkmaid; "any kind of buttons, so they are brass," says Kentucky.

He makes some very excellent remarks on the subject of exclusive jurisdiction, and favors the abolishing of the jurisdiction lines as between Commanderies, saying: "I am satisfied that much good material is lost to us by this law of exclusive jurisdiction, and I am thoroughly convinced that it should at least be modified."

Yes, dear Knight, but they wont do it.

An application was made to him to procure permission from a neighboring Grand Commandery for a Commandery in Kentucky to confer the Orders on a companion residing within the jurisdiction of one of the subordinate Commanderies of the aforesaid Grand Commandery.

He declined to do this.

He received an application from a Commandery in an adjoining city, asking for a dispensation to confer the Orders on a companion residing within the jurisdiction of a Kentucky Commandery.

His answer to all these requests, was, that the Commandery within whose jurisdiction the petitioner resided, alone had power to waive that jurisdiction.

Sensible conclusion. And yet we have known Grand Commanders to make a different decision. In this instance the Grand Commander is undoubtedly right.

He granted a number of general dispensations to Grand Commanderies to participate in public processions or Masonic occasions.

He favors the grand visitation system, and reports having issued a general order to that effect, which appears to have been carried out. He refers to the crowning of Sir Robert Morris in the city of New York as the "Poet Laureate" of Freemasonry, adding: "It is a right royal honor, most worthily bestowed."

MARYLAND.

Under Maryland, after quoting what Sir Knight Adreon says on the relation of Scottish Rite Masonry to Templar Masonry, Sir Carson says:

We agree with Sir Adreon that Knight Templarism has nothing to do with the Scottish rite—but we contend that Templarism can deal with its members for engaging in any dishonorable business or profession. If a Templar is engaged in peddling something he *calls* Masonic, to the scandal of Masonry generally, thereby producing fraternal strife

and discord in the Lodges, Chapters, and Commanderies, we think it is not only right but the duty of the Grand Commandery to legislate against the dishonorable traffic.

The Knights of Pythias, Red Men, and Odd Fellows, make no pretension or claim to Masonic recognition of any kind, therefore whatever disgrace or dishonor comes to these Orders, we as Knight Templars or Masons, would be in no sense touched or disgraced by it. Not so, however, with organizations claiming to be Masonic. The world looks upon all Masonic organizations as one and the same. The only difference being in possessing more or less grades—and when they are deceived by Masonic charlatans, they hold the whole Masonic fraternity responsible without distinction. Therefore it is a duty that legitimately established and Masonic organizations of the country should carefully guard against Masonic imposition either by individuals or organizations. To be a dishonorable man, is to be an unworthy Knight Templar. If it is dishonorable in itself to be a Knight of Pythias, Red Man, or Odd Fellow, we contend that the Grand Commandery would have the right to say that it shall be a Templar offense for its members to belong to such organizations. Ohio has legislated against bogus Masonry of all kinds, so has Connecticut, so has Michigan, so has the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, so has the Grand Chapter of California.

Pretty lame, Sir Carson, pretty lame!

MICHIGAN.

Sir Carson does not approve of our (Michigan's) action on the Malta work, promulgated by the committee of which he was chairman. We have elsewhere expressed our opinion on this matter. Our R. E. Grand Commander was correct; the Grand Commandery, in the absence of the adoption of any work by the Grand Encampment, had adopted a work of its own and promulgated the same. It was courtesy to his Grand Commandery that the Grand Commander refer the matter to them, which he did, and their action showed every respect that the Grand Encampment had a right to ask.

Yes, Sir Carson, we thank you for calling our attention to the result of the action on Sir Cassil's resolutions. They fared about the same fate that Sir Knight May's resolutions did in New York, and they bear great singularity in some ways.

Were we permitted, in a report of this kind, we would fully disclose our position on the "high Masonry business" to the satisfaction of Sir Carson, but time, and we had almost said our good sense, forbid. One thing we can say, if we were the special guardian of Scottish Rite Masonry—as we presume Sir Carson is—we would "give it a rest" and trust to luck for its ultimate recovery from its own zealous friends.

CLOSING.

With the following quotations we close our review of Sir Carson's report, reiterating what we said last year: "life is too short" to follow him through, and space is too limited:

While there are a very few of our accomplished and intelligent Templars antagonistic to the national body, it is gratifying to know that the great mass of the Order are devotedly loyal to it. The cranks, as usual, are on the other side, as they always are! We believe if there was a very decided majority of the Templars of the United States opposed to the Grand Encampment, then the cranks would be its most ardent supporters. As for ourselves, we are firm in the conviction that the national grand body is essential to the stability, grandeur and influence of the Order in the United States. We believe that it is stronger to-day in its support with the rank and file of the Order, than it was ten years ago, and we have no reason to fear for its future, and yet "the heathen will rage and imagine a vain thing."

UNIFORM.

This subject still occupies much attention in some of the jurisdictions. There has been and is a great deal said about the uniform, some contending that the law of 1862 is so vague and indefinite that it amounts to nothing. We think it plain enough for all practical purposes, and believe that it is a great waste of valuable time to be continually, from year to year to year, discussing and legislating about uniform. Follow the edict of 1862, as common sense, and common honesty, and one of the profane would understand it, and we shall come near enough to being uniform to say at least that we *have* a uniform. To stop to discuss trifling details is frivolous.

RITUAL.

There is a growing feeling that more uniformity of ritual is necessary. We are satisfied that the rituals are now substantially the same

throughout the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment of the United States. There is not, so far as we have been able to learn, any formidable differences, and we feel quite confident that a uniform ritual can be easily agreed upon in the Grand Encampment of the United States, and that no Commandery will feel that she is making any material sacrifice by concurring in it, for there is not difference enough among the Grand Commanderies even now to raise any serious disagreement.

THE TRIENNIAL AT ST. LOUIS.

Many of the Grand Commanderies have taken action towards securing accommodations, and providing "head-quarters," that the Templar banner of the state may be properly displayed, supported and protected at the great conclave. The central location of St. Louis, and the railroad facilities for reaching there are so great, we anticipate that the gathering of Templars there will be the largest, and the most uncomfortable for those who participate in it, that has yet taken place. The Grand Commanderies make preparations, and establish "headquarters," and give encouragement and countenance to their Commanderies to go to help swell the states' representation in the grand procession, and then go home and for three years criticise and find fault with the national body for neglecting important legislation, etc. If the Grand Commanderies want to back up the "Grand National Templar Circus," as some writers with a great volubility of rhetoric and acrimonious bitterness term the Grand Encampment of the United States, then let them not establish "headquarters," those hot-beds from which emanates most of the distracting incidents that go to make up the social and fraternal interchanges that have such a disastrous effect upon the working hours of the grand body.

We most sincerely hope that this will be the last "ambulatory conclave" we shall have, except when we are invited to San Francisco again, and that hereafter, with that single exception, that all the conclaves of the Grand Encampment will be held at the national capital—the city of Washington.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir CHARLES E. STANLEY, Cleveland, elected Grand Commander.

Sir JAMES NESBITT, Troy, re-elected Grand Recorder.

PENNSYLVANIA.

THE thirty-second annual conclave was held at Allentown, commencing May 26, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir **Edwin G. Martin**, Grand Commander.

Sir **Charles E. Meyer**, Grand Recorder.

Fifty-three subordinate Commanderies represented. Seven Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander, in his address, says:

Time is the paradox of human achievement. It ever is dilating the crescent possibility into the full orb'd potency, only without rescue to complete the analogy of a lunar circuit; that which began in darkness, ends in darkness; that which began without power, ends in feebleness.

Time is the necessary environment of all career, progress, consummation; but the consummation of an earthly career is a glorious bloom destined to drop the petals of its pride and enter into the humiliation of a seed-vessel, whose end is the deposition of all its virtues in the earth. The heroic soldier makes an end of wars by his own victories, and, making wars to cease, destroys his own career and leaves himself nothing but a parade rest until death calls him to "Attention," bids him shoulder arms, and marches him off the field of action.

Time is thus our friend and our foe. As a friend, he stands whispering to us in youth of what shall be, leading us onward toward it, as, one by one, he checks off the days of our springtime.

As a friend, though somewhat harsher grown in voice and word, he comes to us often in our manhood, insisting and urging upon what must now be. Then his tones begin to change, and he talks much of the brief span that remains, and points to the sun descending in the west. A little while, and, with the terse utterances of authority, he closes his book and cries, it has been! No court can grant us stay of proceedings, no good blade can parry his thrust; we must yield to his summons.

But time is, after all, our truest friend, if we have been true to our-

selves and our plighted vows. The blossom is not for color and fragrance; the fruit is not for itself, but for the productive seed. Man lives for man; his life, each noble life, is that it may reproduce noble lives and conduce to nobler living. He who has fought his last fight has not gained his last victory, will not have gained it until mankind shall cease to propagate and to imitate, until all conditions militant shall cease forever. For heroic men, the angels are the reapers and eternity the harvest home.

DECISIONS.

The following decisions were rendered by the Grand Commander:

I have decided that the term restoration, section 114, page 45, applies to such cases as might arise under our new law of Ahemein Rezon; I held that a Knight Templar so restored to membership within twelve months, would *ipso facto*, on the case being stated, be restored to membership in his Commandery without any action being taken by him, except to submit the facts in the case.

Paragraph 86, page 89, in supplement to the Code of Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, applies to the case of Sir Jacob Qualk; it reads as follows: "When a Templar, after suspension and restoration to good standing, applies for membership, he must do so by petition, setting forth that he had been a member of a Commandery, being suspended and restored to good standing, such petition (if in the same Commandery) need not lie over, but may be acted upon at once."

In the matter of St. Omer Commandery, No. 7, I decided that the Generalissimo, in the absence of the Eminent Commander, acted in violation of the Templar law by calling upon a Sir Knight not a present or past officer, to open and preside over the Commandery during the election for officers, and that the election was illegal and was null and void.

CLOSING.

He closes his address as follows:

I cannot refrain in this connection from insisting upon the necessity of exemplification, as the final word I shall have to utter. Of what avail are Edicts and paper Decrees and communications, if they are not exemplified in the obedience of those by whom they are formulated and to whom they are addressed. Above all, those who make the law or are charged with its execution, should keep it. I must, therefore, strongly express my disapproval, as an illustration of this very abuse, of the fact that some of the officers of the Grand Encampment set the

questionable example of disregarding the rules of that very body which they represent in this matter of uniform.

If they do not exemplify the spirit of law and subordination, how can they enforce it upon others? It is idle to speak of this particular violation of law as a trifle of detail; violation of law is never trifling, and details are always the factors of the largest summing up.

Let us declare the day of nobler things; let us exemplify our work, our spirit; let us move onward with the serious purpose of those who have a mission, the sober joyousness of those who have a hope. The year of my office has ended. The new year begins. May all that has shielded the past, crowd forward in greater plentitude of strength, to advance the future.

The special committee to whom it was referred, submitted the following resolutions, which were adopted:

Resolved, That this Grand Commandery recognizes the right of subordinate Commanderies to adopt by-laws providing for life membership upon the payment of not less than forty dollars, when the annual dues do not exceed four dollars, and in that proportion where the annual dues exceed that amount, and, if desired, a reduction in cases where annual dues shall have been fully paid for five years of twenty-five per cent., for ten years of fifty per cent., and for fifteen years of seventy-five per cent.

* * * * *

Resolved, That the representatives of the Grand Commandery in the Grand Encampment of the United States be and they are hereby requested to use every proper effort to secure the repeal of the provisions of the Code (supplement XI), which interferes with the rights of subordinate Commanderies over the subject of annual dues.

The committee endorsed the application for a charter for a new Commandery at Warren.

GRAND ENCAMPMENT.

The committee on Grand Encampment submitted their report, which, together with the following resolution, were adopted:

Resolved, That this report be printed without delay and copy thereof sent to each Grand Commandery and each member of the same having a vote in the Grand Encampment.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to solicit the co-operation of other Grand Commanderies with a view to the formula-

tion of such amendments to the constitution of the Grand Encampment as may be necessary to carry into effect the foregoing propositions; said committee to print the result of such action, and mail a copy thereof to the members of the Grand Commandery at least thirty days before the next annual conclave.

This same committee submitted a full and comprehensive report on the relations existing between the Grand Encampment of the United States and the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania. We have read it very carefully and only regret that our space will not permit us to reproduce it in full.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir William J. Kelley submits the report on correspondence, and he has no cause to regret anything said or not said. It is a faithful and courteous review of the doings of twenty sister Grand Commanderies. He opens as follows:

On behalf of the committee on foreign correspondence I beg to say that I introduce myself as a temporary reporter, and feel profoundly abashed at my temerity in taking an appointment as the successor of the trio of brilliant reporters we have been so favored with in the past. Sir Samuel Harper, one of our latest and best, has left the field after him a hard task for anyone. Embellishing with his genius, gracing with his faultless imagination, elevating with his courtesy and enlightening with his wisdom. Therefore, as I cannot hope to equal his ability, I shall write and report upon what has been handed me, with no thought above a plain, honest, and, as I hope, fair and courteous review of the following:

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I have endeavored to read the reports of all the above mentioned states carefully, in order to cull the wisdom contained therein for the instruction and edification of our fratre, but am much disappointed to find a simple repetition of the reports of a couple of years back, without a new subject being broached or a new thought born. So that, according to my best judgment, I am compelled to travel over precisely the same ground as did my immediate predecessor (Sir Geo. T. Oliver), and so well did he cover the same that I am at a loss what form to give my seeming report in order that it may have some originality or variation from what he so ably did one year ago.

But few subjects have received attention from the great body of

reporters, the first among them, in my judgment, being the TRINITY. It may be a matter of regret that such a theme was agitated at all in our discussions, as the tendency to talk wisely upon a question so remote from the thoughts and studies of most of us laymen, has led to pretended argument at no time brilliant, and oftentimes flippant. I cannot understand where or in what manner our Order was to be benefitted by the discussion of the subject at all; but am painfully impressed we would be much injured if the writing upon it would be read by any but our closest friends, would be much gratified if some one familiar with the subject or who has opportunity to reach readily the code of laws of the R. E. Grand Encampment will give the form of petition prescribed by them, its date of adoption, etc.

REPRESENTATIVES, THEIR USES AND DUTIES.

This seems to still agitate the minds of the reporters. Many, if not most of them, refer to the representatives, and while some candidly condemn the whole system and think it ought to be abolished, others think there should be a conference of the representatives to consult and advise together in order that some good might be evolved from their appointment. Some Grand Commanders refer to them in their address, and upon reference to the committee on doings of Grand Officers. The committee report they can make no suggestion that would add to their usefulness.

I am impelled to advert to the subject only by the conviction that each of us should give the best intelligence of which we may be possessed to cut any knot or undo any tangle that may occur in our system—and only because of a sense of duty would I pretend to make any suggestion upon a subject that has tied up the intellect of our usual, bright, able, and experienced corps.

I begin, then, by criticising the manner of appointing the representatives. The Grand Commander or the Grand Recorder of the Commandery to which the representatives is to be appointed usually, very usually, suggests the name of the appointee. The Grand Commander, who is about to appoint, selects that name and has the commission made out and forwarded to the Commandery his appointee is a member of. The appointing power has no acquaintance with their appointee, no knowledge of his ability, influence, zeal, or punctuality in attending the meetings of his Commandery. He simply ratifies what has been suggested, sends an illuminated certificate, embellished with a great large seal, and considers his duty done. The Commandery to whom the representative is appointed receives the above and receives the representative with more or less pomp and ceremony, and the appointee turns to his fratre, with an assumed wearied air, a look which says:

"I am a very martyr to my popularity, and I wish they had selected you and left me alone," and it is all over. The suggestion of the name is over; the ratification of the selection is over; the vote and ceremony of receiving the representative is over; the wearied air of the recipient is over; and the usefulness of the appointee is over, for nine chances to one he will never give even a passing thought to those who appointed him, or raise any question in his mind of his duties or responsibilities to either his own Grand Commandery or the one he represents. Now look further and you will find a large number of these representatives either dignitaries close on their way to the throne, or else Past Grand Commanders, who, having all the power to command taken away when they finished their term of office, do not feel called upon to exert themselves in the lesser field, which their appointment consigns them. The remedy, in my judgment, would be to select a bright, sharp, zealous member, a Past Eminent Commander who attends the meetings of his Grand Body, and takes an active interest therein, who will really do what the Order of one of the Grand Commanderies directs them to do, namely: "To visit their Grand Commanderies, inspect their proceedings, inquire into their condition, and report to me *their possible use.*"

It is, of course, known to all reporters that Louisiana and Maryland are now in a condition of non-intercourse, the cause being a criticism of the proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Louisiana for 1882, by the committee on foreign correspondence of the Grand Commandery of Maryland, in which they used language highly offensive to that Grand Commandery. If we may be allowed to pause here, and state that being personally acquainted with the chairman of the offending jurisdiction we are satisfied that he meant no offense in the world. That his kind heart would not permit him to injure any one intentionally; that his temperament, however, makes him, when he sits down to write, figuratively put on his long coat, and pray for some one to tread on the tails, more because he feels the weight and dignity of his jurisdiction resting upon his shoulders, than for any unkindness in his disposition. Any one reading his report will observe he is a close reader of all doings that come before him; all will observe he is a fearless, *caustic* writer, but his frequent acknowledgment of kind words spoken by his companion reporters shows him also to be of fine sensibilities and thoroughly amiable to all the courtesies of life. In justice to Louisiana, we must say the words complained of seemed harsh and ill-timed, and were calculated to wound. But where were the representatives of those Grand Bodies, and what were they doing? If ever a chance occurred by which they could have distinguished themselves,

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and shown how useful a representative could be, it was then. To restrain on one side, and smooth and have concession made on the other, surely with our boasted charity, *magnanimity*, and courtesy, it is not a pleasant thing to find it published to the world that two of our Grand Bodies were allowed to fall out, and never speak as they pass by, all caused by a few words of meaningless import, not intended to mean much, and only made important because there was no friendly voice exerted at either end of the line to represent the fatuity, useless, and damaging measures which have been resorted to.

CROSSING DOMINIONS.

This is a fruitful subject of funny comment and criticism, and well it deserves it. The high sounding fiddle-faddles used when we wish to visit a neighboring jurisdiction, so near bordering on lunacy, that I am not surprised at the fun poked at it by nearly the entire body of reporters. I have no hesitation in saying that if I was elected Grand Commander, and compelled to use such trumpery, I would write out my resignation, send it to the proper authority, and step down and out forever; and if any question arose as to accepting the same, I would move into New Jersey, and, by being in a foreign dominion, render myself ineligible to hold any office, and so accomplish my purpose anyhow.

Sir Knights, let us reform the childish habit, and let us remember that some day some of the profane may get hold of *some* of our literature, and may be tempted to read it. Imagine, if you can, the effect upon him when he reads such stuff. It makes one's cheek tingle with the blush of shame to even dream of such a thing. Let us reform the habit right speedily.

BALLOTING OUT OF TIME.

This is a topic upon which much has been said. In my judgment, it only obtains importance from the ability of the writers who have noticed it. Several Grand Commanders who have apologized in their addresses for granting dispensations seem to have felt it should not be, but they granted, and still grant, about all that come along nevertheless. My own opinion is that the Grand Encampment, having provided you might do it, absolves any Grand Commander from responsibility for doing it. It is all nonsense to make a law giving you full power to do a thing (presumably because it is right), and then become advisory to say you should only do so under great press of circumstances, or the power should be used with caution, or any other prudential promise or advice. If it is a proper thing to do at all, it is proper to do it as often as the Grand Commander is called upon in the interests of his jurisdiction to do so. If it is not a proper thing to do, the power should be

taken away from him. We in Pennsylvania have always sailed close to the wind upon that subject, and I may get a rap over the knuckles for differing with our older and wiser heads. I cannot help the reflection that we are dealing with men who are at the time of their application brethren and companions, members of good standing in Lodge and Chapter, no doubt good enough to be in those bodies, and, if not good enough to become Templars, they certainly should not be permitted to stay in those lower bodies. They are such who have the right to look to us to do them justice under all circumstances. We are not bound to criticise them all over, with a view of finding fault, but on the contrary we should give them the benefit of every doubt. When a Royal Arch Mason presents himself to the Commandery, endorsed by two Sir Knights as being worthy of coming among us, the work is seven-eights done, and he is worthy nine hundred and ninety-nine times in one thousand to share the honors with us. Add to that, that when a ballot out of time is applied for, it is asked of the Grand Commander by Knights whom he personally knows, who recommend it personally and vouch for the man. I think it a good bill, and if I was Right Eminent Grand Commander I would grant it every time.

And then proceeds with his general review, which, owing to the space given for his remarks above, we forbear quoting extensively from.

We are glad to again welcome Sir Knight Kelley as the writer on correspondence. We have learned to love Harper. He is everything that is grand, so we must be permitted to express our regrets at his absence.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir JOSEPH ALEXANDER, Jr., Scranton, elected Grand Commander.

Sir CHARLES E. MEYER, Philadelphia, re-elected Grand Recorder.

TENNESSEE.

THE twenty-third annual conclave was held at Chattanooga, commencing May 12, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir GIDEON RANSOM GWINNE, Grand Commander.

Sir MORTON BOYCE HOWELL, Grand Recorder.

Thirteen subordinate Commanderies represented. Four Past Grand Commanders present.

CONDITION OF THE ORDER.

Of the condition of the Order within his jurisdiction, the Grand Commander says:

Notwithstanding the depression in the business world, we have had a healthy growth during the past year. The terrible pestilence has not visited us, neither has calamity come upon us. God, in his infinite mercy, has dealt kindly with us, and it is indeed appropriate and proper that we, as Christian Knights, devoutly acknowledge his goodness to us and his ever protecting care. This is and ever should be the first duty of the followers of the meek and lowly Nazarene, making it not a "mere lip service," but an earnest and devout acknowledgment from the great deep of our hearts, for His many mercies and blessings daily vouchsafed to us.

There is always a sadness mingled with our joy at our annual meetings, while we exchange kindly greetings, as our thoughts naturally turn to absent ones who have been with us so often upon these occasions, but who have gone to join "that innumerable caravan on the other shore." One by one, are our numbers diminished, and daily do we realize the solemn truth that "all who live must die." The future would indeed be gloomy if that dark cloud had no silver-lining. But hope with its bright rays of promise, illuminates our souls when we remember the Master died for all men. He died as we must die—He lives as we may live, if we trust in Him. This is the silver-lining, this the christian hope, this the christian faith. Thankful should we be for this faith—one that is an anchor to the soul in all the storms and conflicts of life.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

He makes the following recommendations:

I would recommend that subordinate Commanderies be required to hold their annual elections at last stated conclave preceding the meeting of the Grand Commandery, in order that the Grand Recorder may know how to address his communications.

I would recommend that in future the Commandery entertaining the Grand Commandery be required to exemplify the Orders.

I would earnestly but respectfully recommend that this Grand Commandery request that in future subordinate Commanderies exclude wine from their entertainments. Let our Order, pledged to the support of Christianity, present a bold front against intemperance, the greatest curse of the nineteenth century. Christian Knights, stand by your professions.

MALTA RITUAL.

And of the Malta Ritual, he says:

At the last conclave of the Grand Encampment two rituals of Malta were adopted, and it was ordered that each grand jurisdiction should select one or the other form. At our last grand conclave a committee was appointed with instructions to make a selection and report to the Grand Commander. This committee has made no report, except that they failed to agree. I suggest that this committee be discharged, and a new one appointed, with instructions to select and report to this grand body.

INTEMPERANCE AND PROFANITY.

He has the following to say on intemperance and profanity:

With regret, amounting to shame, it becomes my duty to call the attention of this grand body to these unlawful, irreverent and unknightly habits. I am surprised that any Knight Templar could take upon himself the solemn vows of our Order, pass through its impressive ceremonies, and going forth into the world pledged to the defense of our holy religion, visit the saloon and take the name of God upon his lips in any other way than with the deepest reverence.

It is a forfeiture of good manners, a violation of the laws of the land, a violation of the laws of our Order, and a violation of the laws of God. I hope for the honor of Knighthood we will forever put the stamp of condemnation upon these unmasonic practices.

And the committee on his address say, when referring to this subject:

So, as to the use of wine at the entertainments of the constituents of this Grand Commandery, the committee are of the opinion that the good sense of the constituent Commandery should determine the matter. We agree that the Order should present a bold front against intemperance, as well as all other vices and evils, but we are content to let the constituent Commandery deal with such questions without dictation from the Grand Commandery, having full faith and confidence in their fidelity to the Order, and zeal for its welfare and advancement.

CLOSING.

He concludes his address as follows:

This is the record of my official acts—imperfect they are; yet I hope they bear the impress of honest endeavor. Again, Sir Knights, I return to you my thanks for the honor conferred upon me twelve months ago. I also tender my thanks to Sir Grand Recorder for his many acts of kindness during the year. I found him always ready and willing to aid me. To Nashville, No. 1, Baldwin No. 7, and La Valette No. 17, I tender my grateful acknowledgment for the high honor paid me by acting as escort to this grand conclave.

And now as we look back over the past, and see the little that has been accomplished, and the many opportunities for doing good that have been neglected, let us go forth from this grand conclave with new resolutions and higher purposes. Let us go forth to fight the battles of the future, fearlessly resolved to meet earnestly every knightly duty. Let our lives be in keeping with our professions, and ever remembering that he can only defend purity and innocence who is himself pure and innocent. This great battle is being fought, not amid the clash of swords, the roar of cannon, and smoke of battle—but silently and steadily, between virtue in her whitened innocence and almost helplessness, and stalwart vice in all her insolence. Upon this field, and to-day, the spirit of our chivalry is to be tested—here are our high pretensions to be tried. Then let not our swords rust in their scabbards, but with arm of steel and heart of fire, let us stand in the front rank of those who battle for the highest purity and the most uncompromising virtue.

GRAND RECORDER'S REPORT.

Grand Recorder Howell submits his usual full and comprehensive report and concludes it as follows:

I have prepared the report on correspondence, and here submit it. Considering it important that the members of this body should be

informed as to the action taken by other Grand Commanderies during the present conclave, I have had the report printed in advance.

Ten years ago, in this asylum, you elected me to the office of Grand Recorder, and have continued to do so annually, with flattering unanimity. I accepted the position upon what seemed to me a sound Masonic principle, that no Sir Knight should decline to do what his fratres required of him, if he were capable of the service, and the burden not greater than he ought to bear. Under this feeling of obligation, I have discharged the duties of the office during ten years, and now consider myself as having earned the right to ask a discharge. My private affairs demand all my attention. In justice to them, I decline to longer fill the office of Grand Recorder, and therefore beg your permission to retire.

We sincerely regret parting with our personal friend and Sir Knight. We have known him these many years, and none better fills the place of a true friend and courteous Knight. Sir Howell, may your days be days of peace and your years be years of prosperity.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir Howell's report on correspondence is as usual courteous and fraternal.

ALABAMA.

In reviewing the address of the Grand Commander of Alabama, he says:

He had refused a dispensation asked by a Commandery to bury, or to turn out as escort at the funeral of, a Sir Knight, "who had for many years been a consistent and useful member and officer of his Commandery, but, a few days previous to his death, had asked for and obtained a dimit, having previously withdrawn his membership from his Lodge and Chapter." His reasons were that the Grand Lodge of Alabama had decided, in 1874, and in 1876, and in 1878, that "a *non-affiliated* Mason is not entitled to Masonic burial," and, in the last case, had added, "he should not receive it;" and that the Grand Encampment, in its code of statutes, says "an unaffiliated Knight Templar is not entitled to the honors of Knightly burial," and, "it is not proper for a Commandery, as escort, to attend the funeral of anyone who is not buried with Masonic honors."

This reasoning is not satisfactory. While an unaffiliate "is not entitled to," that is, his family cannot demand "Knightly burial," "the

Commandery may grant it, or it may withhold it, without breach of Knightly duty." From all that appears in the Grand Commander's remarks on the subject, it seems to us too sternly technical to have refused this last honor, in spite of his own feelings, to one whom he "had long known, only to love and honor."

CONNECTICUT.

Under Connecticut, he quotes their resolutions upon "high jointed Masonry," and says:

So far as this resolution relates to the Councils of Royal and Select Masters, and of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, they are, in our opinion, *ultra vires*, and therefore nugatory. A Knight Templar, as such, cannot know any degrees except such as are necessarily precedent to the Orders, and the Grand Commandery had no more right to legislate in regard to institutions or societies not included among these precedent degrees, than it has to prohibit a Knight Templar from joining the Sons of Temperance. We think that Masonry has much to fear from this assumption of power, which does not pertain to a Grand Commandery. It belongs to the same genus with the religious proscription, which for hundreds of years prevailed in the so-called Christian nations of Europe, some instances of which have occurred in America. There is no reason to apprehend that "the secular arm" will ever be called upon to punish the disobedient, in either religion or Masonry, at least in these United States. But when a Grand Commandery goes outside of its jurisdiction to hurl anathemas, it is not possible to fix a limit to the power it may assume. The only safe course is to restrict it to its own ground, the confines of the Lodge, the Chapter and the Commandery, within the limits of their several obligations.

MICHIGAN.

Michigan for 1884 has fraternal notice. He quotes from Sir Saxton's address on additions and embellishments of the ritual, and says:

Well, if the "startling effect" was in the right direction, and productive of good, why complain of it? We have always held that, the Eminent Commander being thoroughly fitted for his office, there are certain points at which he should have liberty for digression. His purpose, and the purpose of the ritual, is to produce a lasting impression. Knowing the candidate, as such a Commander will, he should be allowed to accomplish that purpose, when, in his judgment, it can be better done by additions. The same sentence or form of expression

does not strike all men in the same way, and we think a proper latitude should not be condemned.

OHIO.

Under his review of the "Masonic State of Carson," which, being interpreted, means Ohio, he quotes fully from Grand Commander Vance's address, and gives "his say-so" thereon as follows:

We again ask, and we make the inquiry for the purpose of obtaining information, what has the Grand Commandery to do with these affairs?

We understand that there is but one system of Blue Lodge Masonry in this state, namely, that warranted by the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, and that a clandestine Lodge is any body of men who shall claim or attempt to confer the first three degrees of Masonry without a regular charter. The same is true, *mutatis nomine*, as to the Chapter, and as to the Commandery. Now we are informed that there is an institution, called the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, to which none but Master Masons can apply, which has no connection with, and bears no relation to, Chapter or Commandery. This being true, we fail to see what authority or right the Grand Commandery has to declare anything in relation to "Consistory" or "Supreme Council." If a member of Lodge, Chapter or Commandery should violate his obligation or his vow, he ought to be tried and punished. If there be such violation in becoming connected with "so-called Masonic organizations," we suppose it can be proved.

We have heard that the question of regularity or irregularity in the matter of "Consistory," or "Supreme Council," turns upon which of two rival bodies is the "true descendant," and we do not think that the Grand Encampment of Ohio in 1843-4, or the Grand Commandery in 1868, or in 1885, was called upon to determine which of them had the older claim. The Grand Commandery knowing nothing outside of Lodge, Chapter and Commandery—the Grand Encampment having expressly declared the Council degrees unnecessary—so long as a Sir Knight shall abide by and perform his vows, it has no jurisdiction to prescribe what are or are not "the only regular Supreme Councils of the thirty-third degree."

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Knowing nothing of any Supreme Council of the United States of America of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, or of any "Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite in the United States,"

not being a member of any "Consistory," we protest against this compulsion to sit in judgment upon the rival claimants.

Sir Knight Carson won't get much comfort from Tennessee, but he can console himself by thinking that those who don't agree with him don't know much about Masonry and things in general.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir JOHN BAILEY NICKLIN, Jr., Chattanooga, elected Grand Commander.

Sir WILBUR FISK FOSTER, Nashville, elected Grand Recorder.

Since this Grand Commandery adjourned it has been called to mourn the loss of a valiant and magnanimous Sir Knight, one whose sword was indeed endowed with three most estimable qualities; one who could do no intentional wrong to the craft; one who, in every-day life, was a pattern for all to follow; one who had a heart overflowing with kindness for suffering humanity; one, in short, who carried out faithfully the tenets of our Order—our own personal and true friend, whom to know was to love and respect—Sir John McClelland.

The following circular gives the particulars:

The Right Eminent Grand Commander announces with deep sorrow the death of Past Grand Commander John McClelland, which occurred at his residence at Nashville, at 5:30 a. m., August 1.

Our beloved frater was born at Williamsport, Pennsylvania, March 6, 1814, and removed to Tennessee in 1847. In 1858 he received the Orders of Knighthood in Nashville Commandery No. 1, of which he became a most active and useful member, filling all its official stations with great efficiency. In 1865 he was chosen Deputy Grand Commander, and in 1868 he became Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Tennessee. From 1871 to 1875 he held the office of Grand Treasurer of the Grand Commandery.

In other Masonic organizations he was well and widely known as one of the most faithful and devoted members; and in every capacity—as citizen, Mason or Knight Templar—there was presented in his pure

blameless life; in his modest, untiring and unselfish devotion to the welfare of others; and in his unobtrusive deeds of kindness and charity, a bright example of the noblest type of Masonic and Knightly character.

Let the asylums be draped in mourning, and let each Sir Knight testify his sorrow by wearing the usual badge upon the hilt of his sword for a period of thirty days from the receipt of this order. •

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TEXAS.

THE thirty-second annual conclave was held in the city of Paris, commencing April 15, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir NAT WYCHE HUNTER, Grand Commander.

Sir ROBERT BREWESTER, Grand Recorder.

Thirteen subordinate Commanderies represented. Six Past Grand Commanders present.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

It was announced that Sir Knight H. B. Stoddard, grand representative of the Grand Master of the M. E. Grand Encampment of the United States, accompanied by several Past Grand Commanders, was present by invitation of the Grand Commander. Orders were issued for courteous reception, and Sir Knight Stoddard welcomed in knightly terms and tendered command of the Grand Commandery. Assuming the chair, Sir Knight Stoddard delivered an appropriate address, extending kindly greeting of his chief. After this the chair was taken by the Deputy Grand Commander and the regular order of business resumed.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander was unavoidably detained from meeting with the Grand Commandery, but forwarded his address, which was submitted by the V. E. Deputy Grand Commander.

He made the following ruling:

That a Knight Templar created in a foreign jurisdiction, and who has not received the Order of Red Cross, may, at his examination, take the vow and have that Order communicated to him, and thereafter may be admitted into the Asylum.

The address of the Deputy Grand Commander shows that much labor was performed by him during the year.

PROXIES.

A form of proxy, to be used by members of the Grand Commandery, was submitted, and referred to the committee on jurisprudence, who reported thereon as follows:

Your committee on Templar jurisprudence, to whom was referred the form of proxy submitted by Past Grand Commander N. B. Yard, of Galveston, respectfully report that it is not deemed advisable to arbitrarily lay down any formal blank form for the purpose of appointing a proxy to represent his principal, and to recommend a mandatory resolution requiring said form to be strictly followed. We are of the opinion that any written instrument showing the intent of a member of this Grand Body, having authority under the constitution to appoint a Sir Knight to represent him, shall be deemed sufficient in effect, and that no technical form should be required to carry out said intent. The committee on credentials are the proper judges of all details and matters pertaining to this subject, and to its discretion we can safely entrust the subject. We, therefore, beg to be discharged from further consideration of this subject.

TRANSACTIONS.

Transactions local in their character.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir Knight William T. Hardenbrook reviews the transactions of thirty-two sister Grand Commanderies, and among them Michigan for 1884.

GEORGIA.

In his review of Georgia, after referring to what its Grand Commander says on banquets and social entertainments, under Kentucky, he says:

We are a strong advocate of "good cheer," and believe that social

intercourse among the fraternity is elevating in its tendencies, strengthening the bonds which unite us; but we contend that the expenses of such entertainments should be paid by individuals, and not by Masonic organizations, which were established for far nobler and more beneficent purposes. We have known Masonic Bodies to vote large sums for a banquet or entertainment who had previously dismissed a deserving applicant for charity empty-handed or with a pittance. The money paid into the treasury of a Commandery for fees for Orders and dues can be better expended than upon conviviality. Such expenses should always be defrayed by individual subscription. Then, again, there are always members who do not, or cannot, attend these social gatherings, but who regularly pay their dues. By expending the funds of the body these members are obliged to contribute, and taxation without representation is against the genius and spirit of Masonry.

CLOSING.

We give the conclusion of his report in full:

At last we have reached the word "conclusion," and, while we experience a great sense of relief and much satisfaction at having arrived at that particular point, we find ourselves constantly looking back and wishing that our work were before us again, that we might perhaps present it in a more attractive garb, mindful of the fact that

"Habits of close attention, thinking heads
Become more rare as dissipation spreads,
Till writers hear at length one general cry,
Tickle and entertain us, or we die."

But it is too late to change.

"Whatever hath been written shall remain,
Nor be erased, nor written o'er again;
The unwritten only still belongs to thee;
Take heed and ponder well what that shall be."

Many important questions, involving the future welfare and prosperity of our Order, are under discussion. We have endeavored to present, without partiality, in the foregoing pages, the views, opinions, and arguments of our esteemed fratres.

Considerable dissatisfaction is manifested with our supreme governing body, and it is remarked that the most numerous complainants are the Grand Officers who were present at the last triennial conclave and who participated in the negligences complained of.

We have not made an exact calculation, but at a cursory glance we are inclined to believe that had the Sir Knights who returned to their

Grand Commanderies with words of condemnation united in an effort to accomplish any particular end, success would have crowned their efforts, as they combined the voting majority of the Grand Encampment. It might have been better had they united in the performance of their representative and legislative duties, rather than in heaping maledictions upon the body of which they are an integral part.

Another opportunity is offered next year at St. Louis for these complaining Sir Knights to redeem themselves from their inconsistencies, and the Grand Commanderies have it in their own hands to send such representatives to the conclave as are inclined to devote their time to business affairs, and who are proof against the enticements and allurements of the triennial gathering. Our St. Louis fratres have also a grand opportunity to do the handsome thing by these captious fratres, in leaving one day on their programme blank, in which "the workers" may repair to the asylum, free from all temptations or beguilements, and pass the day in enacting the much requested legislation.

Among the matters generally discussed by the corps reportorial are the doctrine of the Trinity as a component part of the Christian religion; tactics, drill, and uniform, which constitute the military feature of our Order; the relations existing between Templarism and Masonry, and questions of law and practice for the proper government and perpetuity of our institution.

The expressions of the brightest minds in our Order upon these and kindred subjects will be found in the quotations in the preceding pages, and we earnestly commend the words of our profoundest thinkers and most brilliant intellects to the thoughtful consideration of our fratres. They are but words,—

"But words are things, and a small drop of ink
Falling like dew upon a thought produces
That which makes thousands, perhaps millions, think."

In justice to Sir Knight Hardenbrook, we desire to say to our fratres that he prepared a very able and extensive report on "foreign correspondence." For reasons, deemed by it good and sufficient, the Right Eminent Grand Commandery appropriated a specified sum for printing the proceedings, and the printing committee were instructed to see that the cost of same did not exceed that amount. We have endeavored to comply. Sir Knight Hardenbrook being absent from the State, the committee have had to use its discretion in "cutting down" in the report, as well as in other matter usually contained in our

proceedings. As to the "correspondence," no *change* has been made in the matter, as presented by the Sir Knight, but the committee confined itself to striking out. We regret the necessity.

Courteously, PRINTING COMMITTEE.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir NAT WYCHE HUNTER, Palestine, elected Grand Commander.

Sir ROBERT BREWESTER, Houston, re-elected Grand Recorder.

VERMONT.

THE forty-third annual conclave was held at Burlington, commencing June 9, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir THAD. M. CHAPMAN, as Grand Commander.

Sir WILLIAM C. BRADBURY, Grand Recorder.

Nine subordinate Commanderies represented. Two Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The address of the Grand Commander, who was unavoidably absent by illness in his family, was submitted and read by the Deputy Grand Commander. We give at length his opening:

No one can regret more than myself the unfortunate sickness of a child at this distance from home (Salina, Kansas), which renders it impossible for me to be with you during the grand conclave. Never have I realized more fully the truth of the expression: "Man proposes but God disposes." Fortunately, Masonry makes no unreasonable demands; it does not interfere with the duties we owe to our families, rather it encourages a discharge of such duties with the greatest fidelity, and I know that you are of too generous dispositions to complain because I cannot meet you.

As we contemplate these annual gatherings, one of the pleasantest thoughts is of meeting old, familiar faces, and others that in time shall become old and familiar.

Many of us have met together for years, we have grasped each other's hands with a mystic pressure. We have taken counsel of each other on things temporal and spiritual, as well as Masonic, and held sweet fraternal intercourse during the brief week of Masonic legislation. We have read in the lines of faces tell-tale history of success and failure, pain and pleasure; joy has begotten joy, and sorrow has begotten sorrow, but all this has tended to bind and cement us more closely together.

Such a result is of incalculable value, and far over-balances all loss of time and possible expense.

All this I must forego, but I trust that you, while giving all necessary time to routine work and needed legislation, will avail yourselves, to the fullest extent, of the social privileges.

The brother who desires instruction should find willing teachers; from the aged and experienced good counsel may be had; those heavy in heart can look for encouragement in the cheerful and buoyant; if the wayward one is present, admonition and gentle reproof may be necessary.

UNIFORM WORK.

On the question of uniform work, he says:

One serious drawback lies in waiting for a uniform work upon the Orders of the Red Cross and Temple. I have advocated waiting until the committee of the Grand Encampment should be heard from; and still think that we had better defer action until after the next session of the Grand Encampment; but had I known that such an unreasonable delay would have been the result I would have favored a different course one year ago. I am aware of the work required to revise a ritual, and of the difficulties attending such a labor when the committee are widely separated, but when the demand for a uniform system comes up from every quarter of the Grand Encampment, a committee who have accepted an appointment ought to give the subject their earliest possible attention. Our own committee would long since have had every Commandery in the State hewing to the same line.

MALTA WORK.

On Malta ritual and its adoption by the Grand Commandery, he says:

The committee on ritual have prepared for the use of Commanderies in this State copies of the Malta ritual, as adopted by the Grand Encampment, correcting an error in scriptural reference, and explaining its rendering.

The idea of correcting a work emanating from the Grand Encampment! Just wait till Sir Carson does his "back talk!"

KNIGHT TEMPLARISM.

We quote from this address much that is interesting:

There is a growing disposition on the part of some of our fratres whom we highly esteem, to make Knight Templars more independent, to place the Order above the lower grades of Masonry, and, to some extent, to ignore the way by which we have come.

Our own able reporter thinks that suspension for non-payment of dues in Lodge or Chapter should not affect one's standing in the Commandery, and lest from his position the sentiment of Vermont may be misconstrued, I am led to give my views, believing that they accord with most of the members of the Grand Commandery; if in error you can correct me.

I have been led to believe that the chivalrous Templars sought refuge in the Masonic Order when pursued to the wall by the power of princes controlled by the influence of priests; that Knight Templarism was engrafted on the grand old Masonic trunk and became, in time, one of its beautiful and substantial branches; that its life depends upon the life of Masonry; that its growth, development and usefulness depend upon the growth and stability of the lower grades.

If the avenues through which the life-giving sap is conducted to the branch be dry, or in any way affected, what is the result upon the branch?

If a frater is unworthy of membership in Lodge or Chapter, or is for any cause deprived of their privileges by suspension, definite or indefinite, he is unworthy to enter our Asylum. Adopt any other rule and the result will be as marked as the limb that draws its sap through a diseased or abnormal avenue.

How can a Lodge or Chapter be supported without means coming from an assessment or dues? Is it not the duty of all who are entitled to the benefits which membership affords, to contribute to the fund from which such benefits are paid so long as they remain in a position to claim them? The door is always open for dismission, and Masonic bodies are never unreasonable in their demands.

In my judgment the disposition which leads men to refuse the payment of the small sum demanded by Lodge or Chapter for annual dues, and submit to suspension, is a key to a character better outside of all Masonic bodies than in I have never known but two

causes, namely: *penuriousness* and *pique*, either of which are unbecoming to Templars, if not un-Masonic.

Fratres, let us make of Masonic Knighthood all we can and all we will, but let us remember that it rests upon Ancient Craft Masonry, the foundation that stands when the winds blow and the storms come. Separate it from this foundation, and you are upon dangerous sands.

* * * * *

The ability of Grand Commanders and grand correspondents displayed in addresses and reports, the opinions of those learned in Masonic law and lore, furnish rich food for the Masonic mind.

Fair and honest criticism on addresses, reports and doings of other bodies, are like the mirror; it is the "giltie gie us to see ousrels as ither see us."

There is a ripple now and then upon the surface caused by the too caustic hit of a keen reviewer, and the over-sensitiveness of the mark. It has become a dashing wave in one instance, sadly to be regretted. Louisiana, indignant at what many would regard as a joke, has resorted to the severe and ultimate act of declaring non-intercourse with Maryland, because of a pungent expression in its foreign correspondence, and because, after disclaiming any insult, it would not retract its words.

The gifted reporter of Iowa, justly proud of his Masonic record, has taken offense at what we know our genial reporter only intended as a bit of pleasantry.

If Sir Guilbert could see Sir Fisher, all thought of an insult would vanish. I recommend that Sir Fisher send him his photograph. No one could look upon that good-natured countenance and think for a moment that he would intentionally do him an injury.

Sir Fisher should have his name printed upon the photograph, for any of his writing might justly be looked upon as an insult by those unfamiliar with his hieroglyphics.

In Grand Chapter as well as Grand Commandery I have run the gauntlet of reviewers, but have no personal grievance. Every criticism has been acceptable, and often more just than many of the compliments. As we look down the line and see at the head two veteran Masons, learned in the principles and law of every grade of Masonry; the Knights of culture and Masonic lore; the genial, brotherly reviewers whose character is an example, commanding the respect of all; the sparkling wit; the writer whose pen is sharper than a two-edged sword; the dyspeptic critic, and Knight after Knight armed to the teeth with bristling quills—it has no terrors for us; the run will do us good, and from them all we are sure to get what we deserve; but members of the guild, allow a suggestion. In matters purely local be spar-

ing in criticism; in matters personal be careful not to wound; in matters of Masonic law and usage, be sure you are right before entering the contest.

"But being in
Bear it that the opposer may beware of thee."

Let the sharpness of your arrows, and the force with which they are thrown, be tempered so far as you can judge by the character of him at whom it is aimed. *Never use a poisoned arrow.*

RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions, offered by Sir Edward S. Dana, were adopted:

Resolved, That we have learned with the most sincere regret of the absence of Grand Commander Hall, who has been detained from our conclave, in a distant state, by the illness of his family.

Resolved, That we extend to our Grand Commander our earnest and heartfelt sympathy, and trust that he may soon be able to return to his native state with his family circle unbroken, and with many years of usefulness and honor before him.

Alas for the uncertainty of life! A few days ago we received notice of the death of this beloved and respected Sir Knight. We formed a close friendship for Sir Dana at the session of the General Grand Chapter, at Buffalo, some years ago, which friendship, we are glad to know, has continued through his life. He was a true and courteous Sir Knight, a trusty friend and elegant gentleman. We cherish his memory in our hearts; we commend his soul to God, and feebly offer our consolation to the widow left to mourn her irreparable loss. Adieu! friend, brother and Sir Knight!

CORRESPONDENCE.

That accomplished and genial writer, Sir Knight Frederick S. Fisher, submitted the report on correspondence, which takes its usual place among the best that reach us. In one hundred and thirty pages he traverses the Templar world from Alabama to Wisconsin and most fraternally reviews their doings.

CALIFORNIA.

He gives the statement of the finance committee of Cali-

fornia, through its secretary, and thus remarks on the disposition made of the surplus fund:

Of the donations, \$3,000 was given to the widow of Sir Alexander Weed, who lost his life in the service of the committee, as stated in the address, \$500 to an aid of the Grand Marshal, who also met with a serious accident while on duty, \$1,000 to the Masonic board of relief, and \$918.54 to the Garfield monument, leaving as above \$7,000. Fratres omnes, do not these financial statements and donations fitly crown the success of California—more fitly than any street parade, or even the hospitality of the triennial?

GEORGIA.

Under Georgia, he quotes, from the committee on correspondence, the following:

The undersigned, as chairman of your committee on foreign correspondence, respectfully submits the following report as the result of his individual labors. A committee of this character should, in the opinion of the writer, be composed of men living in the same community, where frequent personal intercourse is practicable, thus securing the benefit of consultations and interchange of ideas. As now composed this is impossible without much expense and labor. Without any intention to force an opinion upon your grand body, I would suggest this course in the future. Failing to do this, then appoint committee of one. This latter course has been adopted by many of our sister jurisdictions. In presenting this report as my own, it is not done in a spirit of boastfulness, but to shield my associates from the criticisms which must of necessity be directed to it, should it receive any recognition at the hands of like committees of other jurisdictions.

And comments thereon as follows:

There is a homely proverb that "too many cooks spoil the broth." One or two jurisdictions have tried to revise the correspondence, and have failed, because the writer would not submit. We fear the attempt of the committee to correct what *one* must write, would result as disastrously as in the case of the man, who, in the presence of his wife, mother and sister, remarked that his pantaloons were too long. After the man went to bed, his wife quietly went to work and shortened the pantaloons, and then retired. Later, the mother, not knowing of this, cut off a piece of the legs of the pantaloons, finished them neatly and retired. Afterwards the sister, ignorant of all former proceedings, had her turn at cutting off a piece, and so the next morning the man appeared in knickerbockers.

LOUISIANA.

Under Louisiana, when speaking of the "Maryland difficulty," he says:

We think that too much importance, by far, is thus given to words, doubtlessly used hastily and without much thought, by the Grand Reporter of Maryland, who impresses us in his correspondence as a courteous Knight, but one who would not be driven from the right of freedom of speech. If Louisiana had not noticed the matter, or had dropped it now, none would remember the words, which we will not believe touched a tenderness unless the wound is constantly held up to the sight.

MICHIGAN.

Here is what he has to say of "our" Michigan:

Distinguished visitor—Sir Knight Hugh McCurdy, P. G. C. of Michigan, and Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment of the United States, acting as the representative of the Grand Master. Now this is the formal way of introducing to Michigan shore their own frater, known to them as "our Hugh."

We hoped to have seen this distinguished frater the past summer, as one of his Deacons past was with us. He responded in the happy style which has replaced the black birds' song of Michigan.

Beautiful Michigan! Royal volume! Alas! almost too nice for use! We have heard of a fine lace handkerchief carried for "show," while a plain one was carried for "blow," and think this plan might be of advantage in their proceedings. It fairly hurts us to scissor their handsome pages, but have not the time to do otherwise.

The address is a paper of the first-class, and its writer an officer, evidently, of the first order. Speaking of the zealous interest shown, he says: "I regard as the most beneficial feature the great improvement in the work and discipline in the Asylum. This, I think, is largely attributable to the exchange visits and exemplifying the work, which has been largely indulged in by many of our subordinates, and I notice that those who are most enthusiastic in that direction show greatest improvement."

Of our own *modest* (isn't that good, Carson?) self, he says:

Sir William P. Innes, the modest man of silence, presents the correspondence of quotations. He quotes most charmingly, gathering in the wisdom, learning and eloquence of the Templar land. Should he ever be set to speaking as a clock is touched to strike, unequalled would be the flow of stored-up learning, imagination and wit of years of meditation. He might compile a book of Templar quotations which would be invaluable. When he does speak, his words are certain and strong.

Oh, how you bring the blush to our cheeks!

CLOSING.

The following are his closing remarks:

As we close our journey through the Knightly conclaves and jurisdictions of our Fratres Nobiles, no special subjects are found for further discussion. And had we space for topics, we have no topics for space. Happy the people that have no history, and our Order is favored when no events call forth defense and reproof. Therefore again, and for the fifth time, we greet our Sir Knights at home and abroad in the name of St. John the Almoner, our Patron, with the heartfelt words, Peace be unto you; Salem Allykrom.

Good bye, Sir Fisher; we rejoice to know (D. V.) we will meet around the festive board, made exclusively for reporters, another year from now.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir THAD. M. CHAPMAN, Middlebury, elected Grand Commander.

Sir WILLIAM C. BRADBURY, Vergennes, re-elected Grand Recorder.



VIRGINIA.

THE sixty-third annual conclave was held in the city of Richmond, commencing November 18, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir FRANK AVERY REED, Grand Commander.

Sir WILLIAM BRYAN ISAACS, Grand Recorder.

Eleven subordinate Commanderies represented. Two Past Grand Commanders present.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.

R. E. Peyton S. Coles, grand representative for the Fourth District of M. E. Robert E. Withers, Grand Master of Templars in the United States, announced his presence in

his official character. He was introduced, conducted to the east and saluted with the honors due his exalted position.

He returned thanks for the cordial welcome extended to him, and proceeded to address the Grand Commandery in words of congratulation and encouragement.

STATE OF THE ORDER.

On the state of the Order within his jurisdiction, the Grand Commander says:

The past year has been one of much interest in this jurisdiction, and it affords me great pleasure to be able to say that in my opinion there is a growing and increasing interest in the work of the Order. This is not evidenced, perhaps, so much, by an increase of numbers as by more earnestness on the part of our Knights, and a desire for greater conformity, in all the relations of life, to the principles we profess. A great advance will have been made when men's lives, out of our asylums, shall be dominated by the lessons they are taught in them. When Templars shall have learned that any departure from the strict principles of "truth, honor, and integrity," and any violation of the rigid rules of morality, cast an indelible stain upon the sacred emblem which they are so fond of displaying—then indeed will the Order advance in usefulness, and become a great and mighty power for good throughout the length and breadth of our beloved land.

NON-AFFILIATION.

The Grand Commander refers to the present law of the Grand Encampment on the subject of non-affiliation, and says:

I am convinced that the growth of our Commanderies is very seriously retarded by the operation of the law of the Grand Encampment, which declares: "That it is not necessary that a petitioner for the orders of Knighthood be a member of either Lodge or Chapter." See section 2, of article xxxii, code of statutes, Grand Encampment. Section 18 of the same code, declaring that the prescribed fees of a Commandery cannot be remitted, directly or indirectly, also operates against many of our Commanderies, which, by their location, are compelled to draw their material from remote sections of their lawful jurisdictions, and petitioners must travel by long and expensive routes to receive the orders. It seems to me that such Commanderies should be allowed to regulate this matter as is most for their interest to do,

providing, of course, that they do not confer the orders for a less sum than the minimum amount prescribed by the constitution.

Returning to the subject of non-affiliation in Lodge and Chapter. It needs no argument to prove a self-evident fact. The life and success of the Commandery depends upon the life and activity of the Lodge and Chapter from which its life-blood comes. That the prosperity of our Chapters has been seriously and disastrously affected by the operation of the "law" above quoted, I have no doubt, and in this view I am strengthened by the testimony of our Most Excellent Grand High Priest, also a Templar—Sir Robert T. Craighill—whose opportunities of information on this subject are so much greater than mine. In fact, so serious has it become that the retiring Grand High Priest, Most Excellent Companion F. H. Hill, deemed it necessary to give it special mention in his annual address to his Grand Chapter. These, and kindred matters, are questions of internal economy upon which each Grand Commandery should alone legislate, so that their laws and regulations may be in harmony with those of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter in whose jurisdiction they are. I therefore advise this Grand Body, with all the force I possess, to refer these matters to a special committee with instructions to prepare suitable resolutions embodying our views that they may go through the proper channel, and at the proper time up to the Grand Encampment, and that our delegates to the next triennial conclave of that Grand Body be instructed to use their utmost endeavors to obtain favorable action thereon. Preliminary, however, it would, I think, be well to rescind the resolutions passed by this Grand Commandery at its annual assembly in 1882, and which may be found on page twenty of the printed proceedings of that year.

DECISIONS.

The following decisions, made the past year by the Grand Commander, were approved by the Grand Commandery:

1. **QUESTION.**—If a Sir Knight, created since the adoption by the Grand Commandery of the resolution requiring "All Sir Knights created after that date to equip themselves in the full dress of a Templar on foot," should dispose of his uniform, either by gift or sale, to another member of his Commandery, would such an act deprive him of his membership in his Commandery?

ANSWER.—No.

2. If a Sir Knight, created previous to the adoption of said resolution, should in like manner dispose of his uniform, would it affect his standing in his Commandery?

ANSWER.—No.

3. DECIDED.—That a Sir Knight suspended or expelled by his Lodge or Chapter is on the presentation of a certificate, duly authenticated by the Body which suspended or expelled him, setting forth that he has been regularly restored to the rights and benefits of Masonry therein, thereby restored to the rights and benefits of Templar Masonry and to membership in his Commandery. Upon more mature reflection, I have grave doubts as to the correctness of this decision. It has been such a well settled principle of Masonic law and usage, that there exists no power to force a member upon any Masonic Body without its own consent, and it clearly appearing that a Knight suspended or expelled by Lodge or Chapter thereby loses his membership (not simply forfeits his seat) in his Commandery, that I fear that I have decided this question in accordance with the letter of the statute of the Grand Encampment, rather than in accordance with the fundamental law and landmarks of the institution. See article xvii, section 10, code of statutes, Grand Encampment.

These doubts have been strengthened by reading in the *Keystone*, a Masonic paper published in Philadelphia, a report of a decision of the Grand Commander of Massachusetts and Rhode Island in the recent annual conclave of his Grand Commandery. He says:

“The most important decision reported by the Grand Commander was a response to the following questions: (1.) When a Knight Templar has been expelled from all his rights and privileges as a Master Mason, and afterwards restored to said rights and privileges by the Grand Lodge, is he thereby restored to membership in the Commandery of which he was a member prior to his expulsion?

“(2.) If so, must the Commandery receive him into its asylum, either as a visitor or member, before receiving official notice of his restoration?”

After reciting a number of authorities, he presented the following as his decision:

“1. That restoration by the Grand Lodge does not restore a Knight to membership in the Commandery. To acquire this he must, under the code, present a certificate of his restoration in the body which disciplined him.

“2. That, until officially informed of his restoration to his Masonic rights and privileges, a Commandery should not admit him into its asylum. The Grand Lodge certificate of this fact would be official information, and entitle the holder thereof to visit a Commandery under the rules governing the admission of visitors.”

In further considering the matter, in his address, and the bearing of the code of statutes of the Grand Encampment of the United States

and the laws and practices in this jurisdiction on the subject, he recommended that the attention of the Grand Encampment of the United States be called thereto, and that it be asked to examine and revise the code, in order that this Grand Commandery may be relieved of the embarrassment under which it labors on account of the incongruity which exists in the Grand Encampment code of statutes. The Grand Commander further recommended that the representatives to the Grand Encampment of the United States be instructed to use all the means at their command to have the grand constitutions amended by inserting, in substance, the following: "No change in the constitution interfering with the powers of the State Grand Commanderies or adding to the powers of the Grand Encampment shall be made until such change shall have been approved by a majority of the State Grand Bodies, and no decision of the Grand Master upon questions of Templar law, except upon the construction and interpretation of the constitution, shall be held to apply within the jurisdiction of any State Grand Commandery, until the same shall have been approved by it." He stated that he was clearly of the opinion that this Grand Commandery is supreme Templar authority in the States of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and in it alone is vested the right and duty to superintend and govern all Commanderies of Knights Templar and the appendant Orders within its jurisdiction.

This language seems such a clear exposition of the law, as it has heretofore been regarded in Virginia, that I express the hope that the committee to whom this address will be referred will give it careful consideration, and this Grand Body will plainly declare itself upon this important matter.

4. **QUESTION.**—Can a subordinate Commandery remit the dues of its members?

ANSWER.—Yes.

THE GRAND RECORDER.

The Grand Commander thus compliments the Grand Recorder:

I feel it a duty no less pleasant than imperative, to bear testimony to the admirable manner in which the affairs of Right Eminent Grand Recorder's office are conducted, and to tender to him my earnest thanks for the faithful and efficient aid he has rendered me during my term of office. Ever faithful; ever true; may prosperity attend, and length of days be the portion of this accomplished Knight.

NO REPORT.

The chairman of the committee on correspondence ex-

pressed his willingness to prepare the report, but owing to the financial condition of the grand body, the Grand Commander advised against it.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS.

Appropriate resolutions were passed and proper action taken on the death of Sir Knight John Farran Regnault, P. G. C., and Grand Treasurer, who was buried by the fraternity and under the immediate direction of the Grand Commandery, at a special conclave, held in the city of Richmond on June 14, 1885.

REPORT.

The following report, from the special committee on Grand Commander's address, was adopted:

1. That the decision and appointments made and dispensations granted by the Right Eminent Grand Commander be approved and affirmed.
2. That the views of the Right Eminent Grand Commander in regard to the relation which a Knight Templar should sustain to the Chapter and to the Blue Lodge, that is to say, that no man should become a Knight Templar, or remain a Knight Templar, who is not a member in good standing in some Chapter and some Blue Lodge of Masons, are concurred in by this Grand Commandery. We believe this to be right on principle, and useful in practice.
3. That a committee of three be appointed to prepare a petition to the Grand Encampment of the United States, asking that Body so to change the law as to make it conform to the views above expressed. That this committee prepare the said petition during the recess of this Grand Commandery, and after submitting the same to the Council officers of this Grand Commandery for their approval, shall forward the same to the proper officer of the Grand Encampment in time for it to be submitted to the Grand Encampment at its next conclave.
4. That our representatives to the next Grand Encampment be instructed to urge the passage of such laws by that body as will carry into operation the view above expressed.
5. That any law, rule, or resolution heretofore passed or adopted by this Grand Commandery, inconsistent with the foregoing views, be hereby repealed.

* * * * *

We think the law, article 17, section 10, of the code of statutes of

the Grand Encampment of the United States should be changed so that a Commandery shall have the right to vote on the restoration to membership of any suspended or expelled member, although the suspension or expulsion was the result of suspension or expulsion by Lodge or Chapter, and although restored in the Body which suspended or expelled him.

We recommend that the same action be had on this subject as recommended in regard to the subject alluded to in the second and third items of this report, and that it be referred to the same special committee for similar proceedings.

NEXT MEETING.

The time and place for the next grand annual assembly was left to the decision of the Grand Council.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir FRANK AVERY REED, Alexandria, re-elected Grand Commander.

Sir WILLIAM B. ISAACS, Richmond, re-elected Grand Recorder.

—
WEST VIRGINIA—1884.

THE tenth annual conclave was held in Wheeling, commencing May 14, A. D. 1884, A. O. 766.

Seven subordinate Commanderies represented. Three Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER.

The Grand Commander was not present, nor was any letter from him explanatory of his absence, or any report of his official transactions during the year last preceding, presented before this Grand Commandery.

TRANSACTIONS.

Business local entirely in its character.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir CHARLES F. SCOTT, elected Grand Commander.

Sir GEORGE F. IRVINE, Wheeling, re-elected Grand Recorder.

SESSION 1885.

The eleventh annual conclave was held at Charlestown, commencing May 13, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir WILL H. RIGGS, as Grand Commander.

Sir GEORGE F. IRVINE, Grand Recorder.

Seven subordinate Commanderies represented. Two Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER.

The Grand Commander was detained by severe illness in his family, and his address, which was entirely devoted to matters local in their character, was presented and read by Sir Knight Odell S. Long, Past Grand Commander.

The Deputy Grand Commander, in the address delivered by him, says, on the printing of their proceedings:

If I may be permitted, I would urgently suggest that our proceedings be published annually. As it is now, we have to grope our way in the dark—sometimes so long as three years—without knowing what has been done throughout the State and at our annual conclaves. I can conceive of but few things calculated to have a more depressing effect on our organization than the failure to place in the hands of the Sir Knights our proceedings annually. But few, if any, Grand Commanderies show so little interest in this matter as does this of ours, and as a result but few, if any, show so little progress in prosperity as the Grand Commandery of West Virginia. These are not pleasant comparisons, but they are facts which are present with us, and it remains to be seen whether we are willing to seek a remedy.

GRAND OFFICERS.

The following report, from the special committee on doings of grand officers, was adopted:

Your committee on proceedings of grand officers has had before it

the report of the Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander and Grand Recorder. We deeply regret that the serious illness of the one earthly friend dearer to him than all others, has prevented Grand Commander Scott from being present with us in person at this grand annual conclave, and we sincerely trust that, for our Grand Commander, out of present sorrow may come joy and gladness. The reports of his official acts shows that but little has been required of him, and that has been mainly in the customary routine. He has given prompt and faithful attention to the various subjects of official action coming before him, and we find in the report nothing that is not worthy of your entire approval. We recommend that his official action in all of the matters stated in his report be ratified and approved.

We have the same words of commendation for the Deputy Grand Commander, whose report well sustains the reputation he bears among all who know him, as a faithful Knight Templar and a most courteous, prompt and painstaking officer.

The Grand Recorder has discharged the duties of his important office with his customary neatness, zeal and fidelity. The peculiar circumstance of the failure of the Grand Commander to transmit any report last year, and the consequent meagerness and unimportance of the business transacted at the last annual conclave, seem to us to furnish sufficient reasons for the conclusion of the Grand Recorder that it was inexpedient to print the minutes of the conclave of 1884 in separate form. But we recommend that the Grand Recorder be instructed to print the minutes of that conclave, and of this as soon after the adjournment as may be expedient.

TACTICS ADOPTED.

Grant's Tactics were adopted by the Grand Commandery for its subordinates.

SPECIAL REPORT.

The Grand Commander, for the year 1884, submitted a report at this (1885) conclave, which was referred to a special committee, who submitted the following report thereon:

Your special committee, appointed to consider what action, if any, should be taken by the Grand Commandery at its present grand conclave, upon the official report of Past Grand Commander Flick, which was addressed to the grand conclave in 1884, but was not received by the Grand Recorder in time for action last year, has given to the subject such attention as circumstances have permitted, and as the unprecedented nature of the case seems to require. It is true that the report in question comes before this body in an irregular and informal man-

ner, and we believe that any strict construction of the laws generally controlling deliberative bodies would exclude it from any consideration whatever at this time. Its recommendations were addressed to a grand conclave held a year ago, and we do not even know that E. Sir Flick would now renew his suggestions did he have the opportunity of presenting them officially at the present time. Circumstances change, and men's opinions alter, and the lapse of one year will often suffice to render ill-timed and injudicious the views and purposes of the year before. We are therefore of opinion that the recommendations made by E. Sir Flick in his report dated May 11, 1884, cannot be properly regarded as coming regularly before the Grand Commandery for action at the present time.

We express no opinion as to the importance of the suggestions presented, or of the desirability of the changes he recommends, but only that, if to be considered now, they must be presented anew, and in some other form. But as to the official acts and decisions of the Grand Commander in 1883-84, a different rule should prevail. These constitute a part of the history of the Grand Commandery; they are a record of acts done, and not mere recommendations for action in the future. We therefore offer for your consideration the following preamble and resolutions:

WHEREAS, It appears in the report of the Grand Recorder for the Templar year now just closed, that on the 2d day of May, 1885, he received from Past Grand Commander Flick a report of the official acts of Sir Flick as Grand Commander in the year ending May 14, 1884, which report has been read in the hearing of the Grand Commandery at its present annual conclave; and,

WHEREAS, This Grand Commandery has not heretofore had any opportunity of either ratifying or disapproving said official acts; therefore, be it now

Resolved, That the action of Grand Commander Flick in appointing to and receiving from other grand jurisdictions in the United States grand representatives, and in the issuance of regular and special dispensations, be, and the same is hereby ratified and approved.

Resolved, That the several decisions of questions of Templar law made by Grand Commander Flick during his term of office, and reported by him and not heretofore acted upon by this Grand Commandery, be, and are hereby approved and affirmed.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir WILL H. RIGGS, Martinsburgh, elected Grand Commander.

Sir GEORGE F. IRVINE, Wheeling, re-elected Grand Recorder.

WISCONSIN.

THE twenty-seventh annual conclave was held in Milwaukee, commencing October 13, A. D. 1885, A. O. 767.

Sir GEORGE H. BENZENBERG, Grand Commander.

Sir JOHN W. LAFLIN, Grand Recorder.

Nineteen subordinate Commanderies represented. Three Past Grand Commanders present.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.

V. E. Sir Knight Hugh McCurdy, Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment of the United States, being announced in waiting, the lines were formed and "our Hugh" received with the honors due his exalted position.

The Grand Commander welcomed Sir Hugh in the following well chosen remarks:

It is with feelings of unbounded pleasure and pride that I extend to you, in the name of this Grand Commandery, a most cordial, fraternal salutation, and bid you a warm, heartfelt welcome to this our twenty-seventh annual conclave.

It is with pleasure sincere, because of the opportunity of again greeting you, well remembering the pleasant incidents of your former visit to this grand jurisdiction three years ago, and recalling the impressive and eloquent words in which you then addressed the Grand Commandery; and it is with pride, since in receiving and welcoming you, we greet and salute the representative of the Most Eminent Grand Master and of the Grand Encampment with an unbroken front of loyal Knights, faithful to their obligations and unswerving in their allegiance to the Grand Encampment.

We also welcome you, Very Eminent Sir, as the representative of our Michigan fratre, between whom and the Sir Knights of this State, and especially of this city, there has always existed a particularly warm sentiment, caused by the exchange in the past of Knightly courtesies and hospitality.

In again extending to you a Knightly greeting, I hope, Sir, that

your sojourn within our midst will not be entirely without its pleasures to you, as it certainly will not be without profit to us.

Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery, I have the pleasure of introducing to you Very Eminent Sir Knight Hugh McCurdy, Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment.

And Sir Knight McCurdy, after having been escorted to the east, responded as follows:

After the lapse of a triad of years, I am, indeed, most happy to be so gracefully welcomed by this Grand Commandery. And in the choice of one to voice its sentiments of welcome who has so well learned, not only the true graces of Knighthood, but also the graces of speech, this Grand Body is likewise most happy. For, Right Eminent Sir, you have well learned, that as in work it is the heart that giveth grace to every art, so it is the heart alone that giveth grace to this, the queen of hearts and arts, the art of graceful speech.

If, said an ancient writer, you would inspire me, you must first be inspired yourself. What better inspiration could I have to the full expression of good cheer and fraternal greeting which, in the name of the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, I have come to convey to you? What better inspiration, I ask, could I have to the proper fulfillment of my grateful mission than the inspiration found in your words of cordial welcome and of hospitality which come with no uncertain sound from this Grand Commandery, every one of whose hearts is warm with the sacred fire which fraternizes men, which is

"The sublime of man.
Our noon tide majesty."

Your welcome comes from Templars' hearts warm with that friendship which is the wine of life. A friendship ours, which is the outgrowth of no culture or teaching; but which is born of that inherent nobility which is the highest type of manhood, and the grandest characteristic of true Knighthood.

Every true Sir Knight is born—not dubbed—not created. He possesses a culture, a dignity, a nobility which it is in no man's power to give or take away.

You may have your tactics, your culture, and your drill; but they are not the stuff that true Knights are made of. True Knights are to the manor born—the nearer nature's heart, the nearer to the highest ideal of Templarism. We must never forget that every act, every syllable, every word, and every lesson of Templarism is only a symbol.

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And it is because every frater of this Grand Body has so well learned this truth, that through you they welcome me to-day—not as Templars greet a Templar, with symbols of courtesy and friendship, but with that true manliness which wherever breathes the man, hails the brother; that manliness which is the highest ambition of ever Templar to foster and cherish, and by all his words and acts to express. The highest ideal of Templarism is attained only when thus frater meets frater, when every symbol has been laid aside; when you see not plumed chapeau, gleaming sword, rustling banner, nor star-decked baldric—when every insignia of rank, every symbol has disappeared, and man meets man alone as man.

Whatever signification our symbols may have to each Sir Knight and to the world, when Sir Knights meet, then comes the abolition of all symbols, then with nature too noble for any symbol,

"He would not flatter Neptune for his trident,
Or Jove for his power to thunder;
His heart's his mouth,
What his breath forges, that his tongue must vent."

That I find here the development of such chivalric and Knightly qualities is indeed cause for hearty congratulations, and which I extend to you.

Thus my mission, this my theme, a mission which graceful words cannot embellish, a theme which beautiful words cannot adorn.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander, in his address, says:

Sir Knights, another Templar year has passed, and let us who have been graciously permitted to again meet together express to Him, who alone wields our destinies, our devoted thanks for this privilege, while we recall the fact that many, very many, of our fratres, who one year ago stood with us shoulder to shoulder, are to-day no longer with us. They have finished their labors here below, and are now silent and alone, undisturbed, perhaps unnoticed, by the busy world, but not unmourned by us, who knew them as no others did.

Let them, therefore, still live in our memory, each recalling their many kind words, acts, and fraternal greetings, remembering that our days are also numbered, and many of them are less than a year.

He refers to the dead of his jurisdiction in most fitting terms and pays kind tribute to them all.

TENNESSEE.

Of Tennessee's dead, he thus truthfully speaks:

The Grand Commandery of Tennessee lost one of its most active members by the death of Right Eminent John McClelland, Past Grand Commander, which occurred at his home in Nashville, on the morning of August 1. A faithful, zealous Mason, he was constantly exemplifying the beauties of Masonry in his daily life and actions. Departing at the ripe age of seventy-one years, he left a void not easily filled.

CONDITION OF THE ORDER.

Of the condition of the Order within his jurisdiction, he says:

The general condition of the Order in this State is very satisfactory, peace, harmony, and prosperity prevailing almost universally. Increased interest in the welfare and in the objects of our institution has manifested itself everywhere. Only in a few instances, during my visit to a number of the Commanderies, have I found any waning of interest and a falling off in attendance, due, however, largely to local circumstances and conditions.

Let me warn these Knights that the object of our Order is not to only dub and create all the poor and weary, or valiant pilgrims, and that being accomplished, "that there is nothing left for us to do." There is a great deal left for the Eminent Commander to do. He must keep the interest of his members centered in the Commandery. Every conclave should be made to be full of interest in the ceremonials and in the rehearsal of the duties and of the principles we profess. To a great many, this will be new; to others, if they reflect, it will develop new beauties. This will increase the attachment for the Order. Keep up their interest, by undertaking a pilgrimage to the asylum of some other Commandery, and have them re-visit you, but never permit months to pass without opening your Commandery on account of want of attendance, and this simply because you have no work. When you have come to this stage, and find no remedy, you had much better surrender your charter than continue.

DECISIONS

The following decisions, made by the Grand Commander during the year, were approved by the committee on jurisprudence:

The question whether it is necessary that a Sir Knight petitioning for membership, be a member of a Lodge or Chapter, I answered by quoting the action of the Grand Encampment in 1877, upon a decision made by Past Grand Master J. H. Hopkins, that it is not, notwithstanding that a Sir Knight must maintain membership in both to retain his membership in his Commandery.

"A applies for the Orders. While application is pending, and before ballot is taken, B, a member of the Commandery, makes written objection to A, and to another who never applied."

QUESTION.—Is the objection made before ballot operative? Must not objection be made after ballot?

ANSWER.—An objection placed by any Sir Knight with the Eminent Commander of his Commandery, against the petition for the Orders at any time, from the moment of the receiving of the petition until the conferring of either of the Orders, is good and binding. An objection may also be properly made against the receiving of the petition of a companion.

TESTIMONIAL.

The following speaks volumes for the kind-heartedness of the Sir Knights of Wisconsin:

Pursuant to your wishes, the Grand Recorder and myself, assisted by our Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, procured a most handsome testimonial, in the shape of a beautiful French clock, surmounted by a bronze figure, representing a mounted Knight in ancient armor, bearing aloft the Grand Standard in his left, and the battle axe in his right; the whole guarded on each side by a large independent bronze figure, representing Knights clad in ancient armor, and prepared to defend the Standard, the clock bearing the following inscription upon a tablet inserted in the base panel:

"FROM THE GRAND COMMANDERY K. T. WISCONSIN,
IN MEMORIAM
PAST GRAND COMMANDER C. F. G. COLLINS."

This testimonial was appropriately presented, in the name of the Grand Commandery, to the wife and family of our deceased frater, by R. E. Sir C. P. Whitford, E. Sir F. L. von Suessmilch, and V. E. Sir J. Watts, the recipients expressing their unqualified appreciation and deep gratitude for this most appropriate tribute of respect, and send

their warm thanks to this grand body, for this most suitable expression of love to the memory of their husband and father.

GRAND ENCAMPMENT.

Of the Grand Encampment and its next meeting, at St. Louis, the Grand Commander says:

Sir Knights, the twenty-third triennial conclave of the Grand Encampment, will take place at St. Louis, during the third week in September, 1886, and before the close of our next Templar year. No doubt a large number of Sir Knights from this state will attend, and I would recommend that such proper action be taken at the present time, which will enable the Grand Commandery to procure, and properly prepare, suitable headquarters and reception rooms. If this jurisdiction is to be represented at all, in the social features connected with the Templar gatherings of the triennial conclave, let it be done in a manner worthy and creditable to our knights, or as in 1877 and 1880, not at all.

It is to be hoped that the next meeting of the Grand Encampment will be devoted entirely to its business. A great deal of harsh criticism upon that grand body has been indulged in by different Grand Commanderies in various ways, and most frequently by those who have been, or are, members of the Grand Encampment. It seems to me, this is setting a bright example to their subordinate Commanderies. Apparently, there are too many different local interests represented in the Grand Encampment. No doubt it should have exclusive control, for instance, of the subject of rituals, and its orders in reference thereto, should be rigidly enforced. But when the question comes up, local interest begins to manifest itself because the ritual differs from that which is in use at home, the general good of the Order is lost sight of, some invitation is accepted, the matter re-referred and there remains. The session passes and nothing is accomplished. If the officers of the Grand Commanderies desiring legislation in the Grand Encampment, would force a final determination upon the question at issue and then every one abide by the result without murmuring, and remember their obligations, all questions could be quickly disposed of.

If the Grand Commanderies would criticise the action, or rather non-action of their representatives, they would be more consistent, and perhaps more particular in seeing who their officers should be in the triennial year. There is a great deal written about the uselessness of the Grand Encampment. Who is responsible for its uselessness but its members, and who are its members?

RESOLUTION.

With feelings of pleasure we give in full the following resolution, offered by Past Grand Commander A. V. H. Carpenter, and adopted by the Grand Commandery:

Resolved, That this Grand Commandery, in consideration of the great services of Eminent Sir Knight Adolph Henry Wagner to the Orders of Knighthood as well as to Freemasonry in general--and of the fact of his being Past Eminent Commander of Manistee Commandery, No. 32, of our neighboring jurisdiction of Michigan, in the organization of which he was chiefly instrumental, and under whose administration the same flourished in a most remarkable degree, and the institution of Templar Masonry materially benefitted by his labors, and the good name he bears always and everywhere, do constitute him a member of the Grand Commandery of the State of Wisconsin, with the rank of Past Eminent Commander, with all the constitutional privileges and rights appertaining thereto.

Personally and in behalf of the Templars of Michigan, we say thanks, thrice thanks to Wisconsin Sir Knights. Michigan parted with Sir Wagner with great regret, and Wisconsin has our assurance for it that they will never regret being good to "our Wagner," a true gentleman and courteous and magnanimous Sir Knight. Long may he wave!

RESOLUTIONS.

Sir Knight Elliott offered the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the subordinates of this Grand Commandery may, at their option, use either the long or short form of ceremonial presented by the Grand Encampment relative to the Order of Knights of Malta, but that the use of one of said forms is imperative.

Resolved, further, That all statutes of the Grand Commandery, contrary to the spirit of this resolution, be and they are hereby repealed.

Which were referred to the committee on jurisprudence, who reported upon them as follows:

In regard to the resolution by Eminent Sir Elliott, giving the option to subordinates of this Grand Commandery to use the long or short ritual of Malta work, the committee understand the mandate of the Grand Encampment requires Grand Commanderies to adopt *either the one or the other* for the use of their subordinates, but allows no optional grant to them. This Grand Commandery adopted the short form at its last session. As much as we might be disposed to concede privileges of the kind desired to Commanderies for the benefit of those having the equipment or the ability to procure it, we deem uniformity of work of more importance to the Order at large than the loss entailed upon the Commandery by not being able to make its purchases available, and regard any concessions for such purposes as unwise in principle and unsafe as a precedent.

AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION.

The committee on jurisprudence reported the following, which was adopted:

In the matter of amendment to constitution, article nine, section seventeen, paragraph one, so as to read as follows: "Each constituent Commandery of this Grand Commandery shall have concurrent jurisdiction in the territory of each other Commandery whose territory is immediately contiguous thereto." We recommend that the same be *not* adopted, deeming such an innovation in our established customs, both unsound in principle and prophetic of pernicious results.

APPROPRIATION.

The sum of \$1,000 was appropriated to the R. E. Grand Commander to be expended in providing suitable headquarters and knightly hospitality at the ensuing Triennial.

That ought to put Wisconsin in the front rank of entertainers; but they always are, so the amount does 'nt affect them any.

RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions, offered by Sir A. V. H. Carpenter, were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Grand Commandery does hereby extend to Sir

W. C. Swain, committee on foreign correspondence, the assurance of grateful appreciation of his valuable service to the Order in that important capacity.

Resolved, That the cordial thanks of the constituents of the Grand Commandery are due and are hereby tendered Eminent Sir Swain for the ability with which he has discharged his duty as correspondent, and for his unwavering *suaviter in modo, yet fertiler in re*, which have won such a host of friends for the knights of Wisconsin, and such a wholesome respect for them, collectively and individually, by his reports in the line of his duty.

Resolved, That the committee on foreign correspondence be presented with a writing desk to be procured by the Grand Recorder, and kept in his office if desired.

RIVERSIDE ENCAMPMENT.

A full account is given of the encampment held at Riverside Park, Neenah, July 21-25, 1885. We judge it was a most enjoyable affair.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir Swain, the "reporter with the writing desk," comes forward with his usual well written and courteous report of the doings of thirty-one sister Grand Commanderies. It is Swain's report and that is everything that can be said of it.

We had marked much to quote from it, but must refrain, as we have exceeded the allotted space with "our say" of the proceedings proper of this Grand Commandery.

CLOSING.

He concludes his address as follows:

The Trinity question has fallen entirely into the background, and the great bugbears are the *uselessness* of the Grand Encampment, and tactics and drill; and these questions will continue at the front, the former as long as it continues in existence—which, we trust, in a modified form, will be forever—and the latter as long as we have on the one hand men who have passed the sugar plum period, and desire the solid good of the Order; and on the other, the neophytes who are

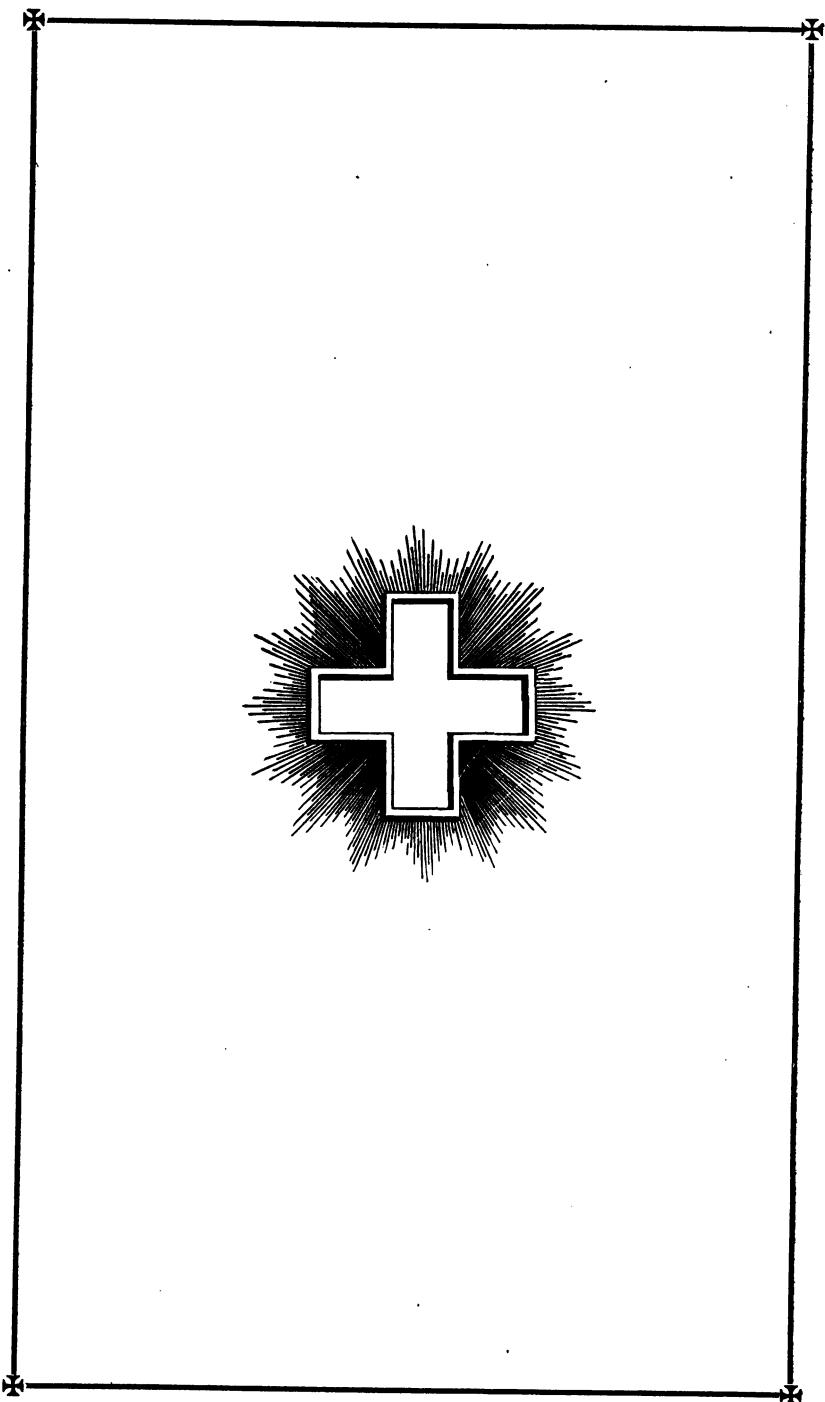
fond of the display, and who will appear on the other side later in life. But underneath it all, charity and hospitality will prevail, and we will agree to disagree—and there will be no serious quarrel.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir GEORGE H. BENZENBERG, Milwaukee, re-elected Grand Commander.

Sir JOHN W. LAFLIN, Milwaukee, re-elected Grand Recorder.





CONCLUSION.

THE end is reached; our journey as a reporter is ended.

We have passed from Alabama to Wisconsin, in the one direction, and from Maine to Oregon, in the other, taking from the doings of each sister Grand Commandery such extracts as we believed would aid our Sir Knights in obtaining an epitome of the proceedings of each sister Grand Commandery.

We gather from the several reports the glad tidings of peace, prosperity and harmony.

The cloud, no larger than a man's hand, that a few years ago seemed to have unsettled our Maryland and Louisiana fratres, has passed away, and our sisters are at peace; and we trust the peace they now enjoy will never be broken. Life is so short that nothing ought to be allowed to mar the good feeling that should exist between members of the great Templar world.

The Grand Encampment of the United States will, in a very short time, hold its next Triennial in the city of St. Louis.

Again will we be drawn around the one grand center; again will we meet to legislate upon the many important matters that must necessarily come before that body. May our best efforts be given to the work. Those who honestly differ as to the good of the perpetuation of that body, will meet together. Let us fervently hope that all subjects may receive due consideration, and that every representative will discuss all questions in the spirit of candor and knightly courtesy.

We will miss many from our midst who were with us

three years ago. Sorrow will unmistakably fill our hearts, and tears, unbidden, will fall for those who have sheathed their swords, never again to draw them in the sacred cause of Templar Masonry. Their vacant places will remind us that they fill more exalted positions in that home above, and that, like them, sooner or later, our places must be vacant, and our work performed by those who come after.

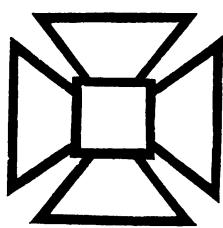
Sir Knights, representatives of the Grand Encampment, the eyes of the Templar world are upon you. May your deliberations be guided by wisdom from on high; may your actions be such as tend to unite more closely the ties of Templars, and may your legislation be with an eye single to the future prosperity and promotion of Templar Masonry throughout the length and breadth of our land.

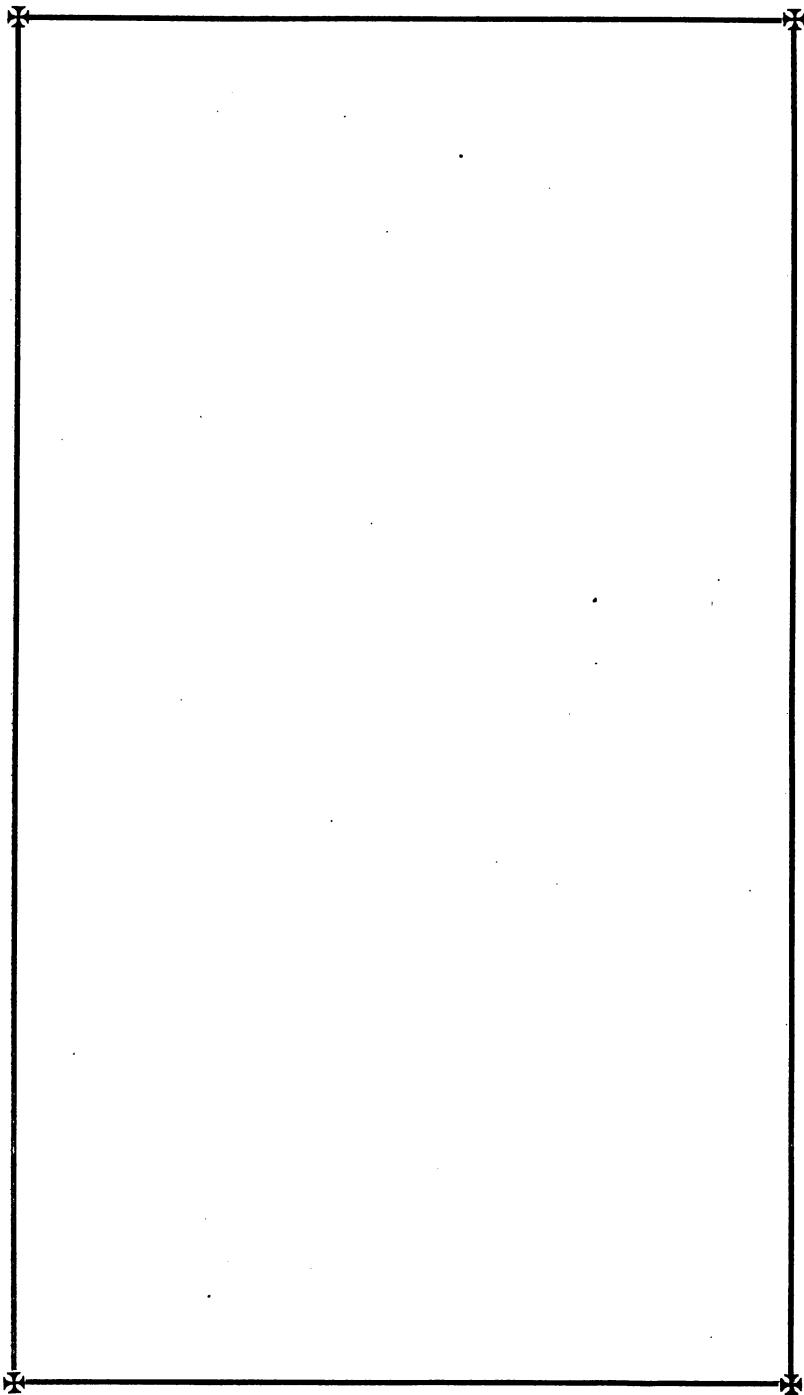
Courteously submitted,

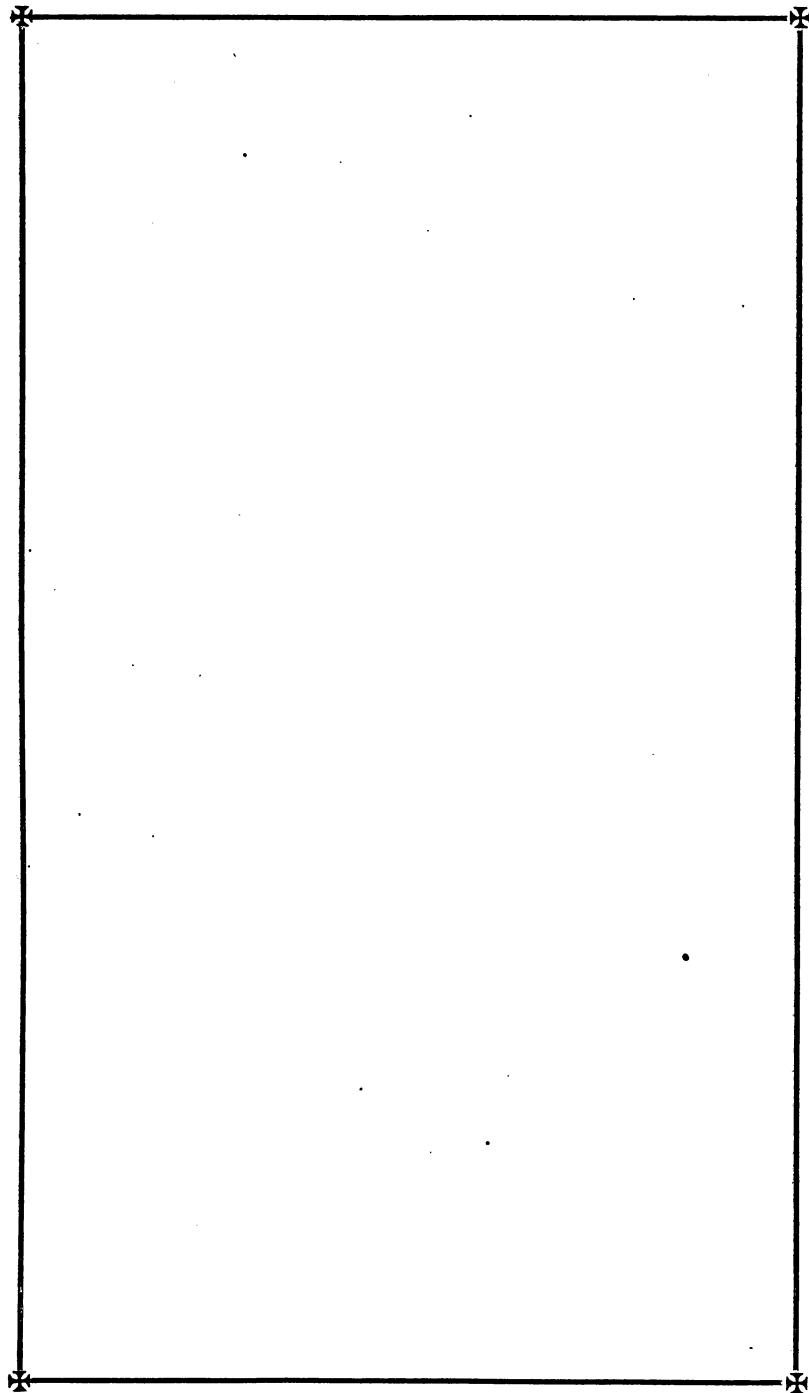
WILLIAM P. INNES,

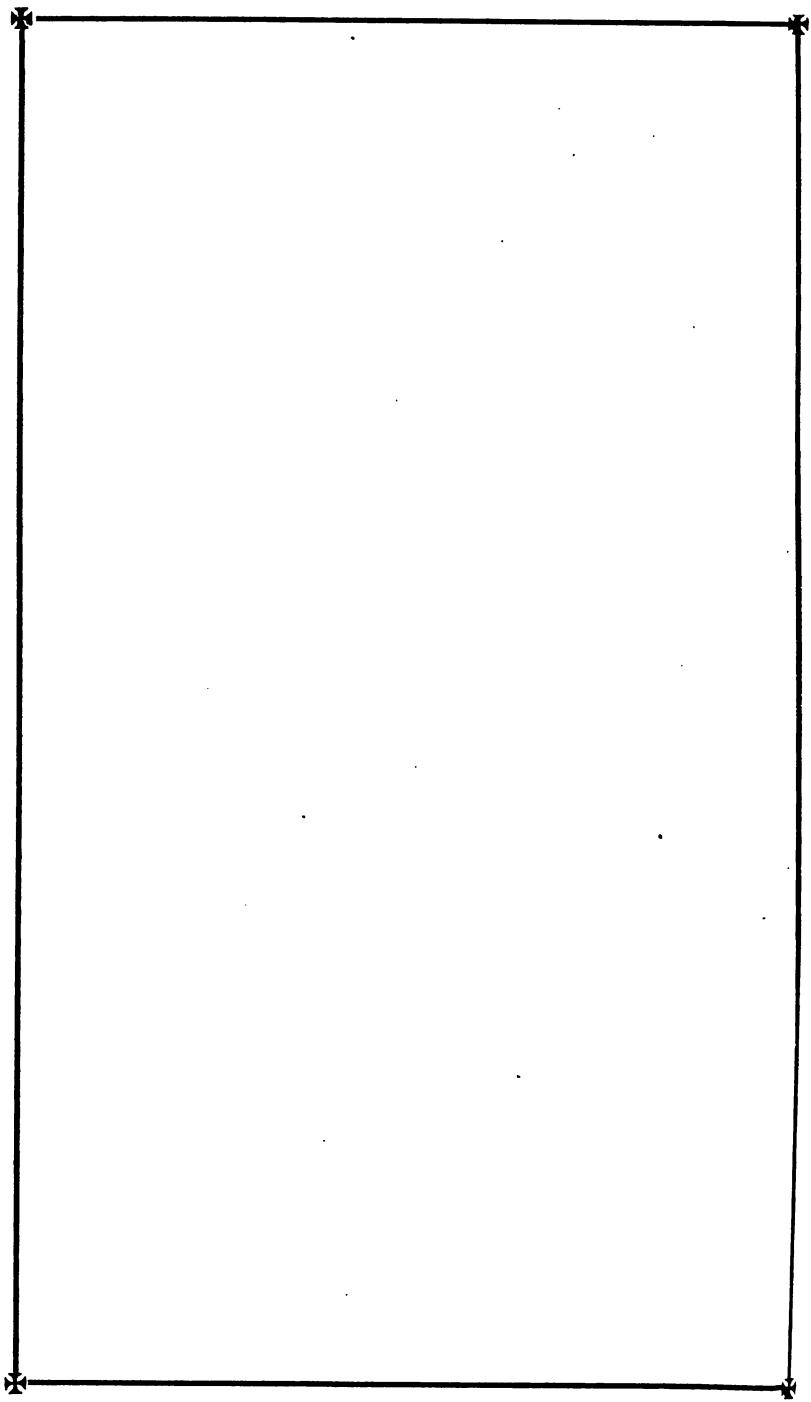
For Committee.

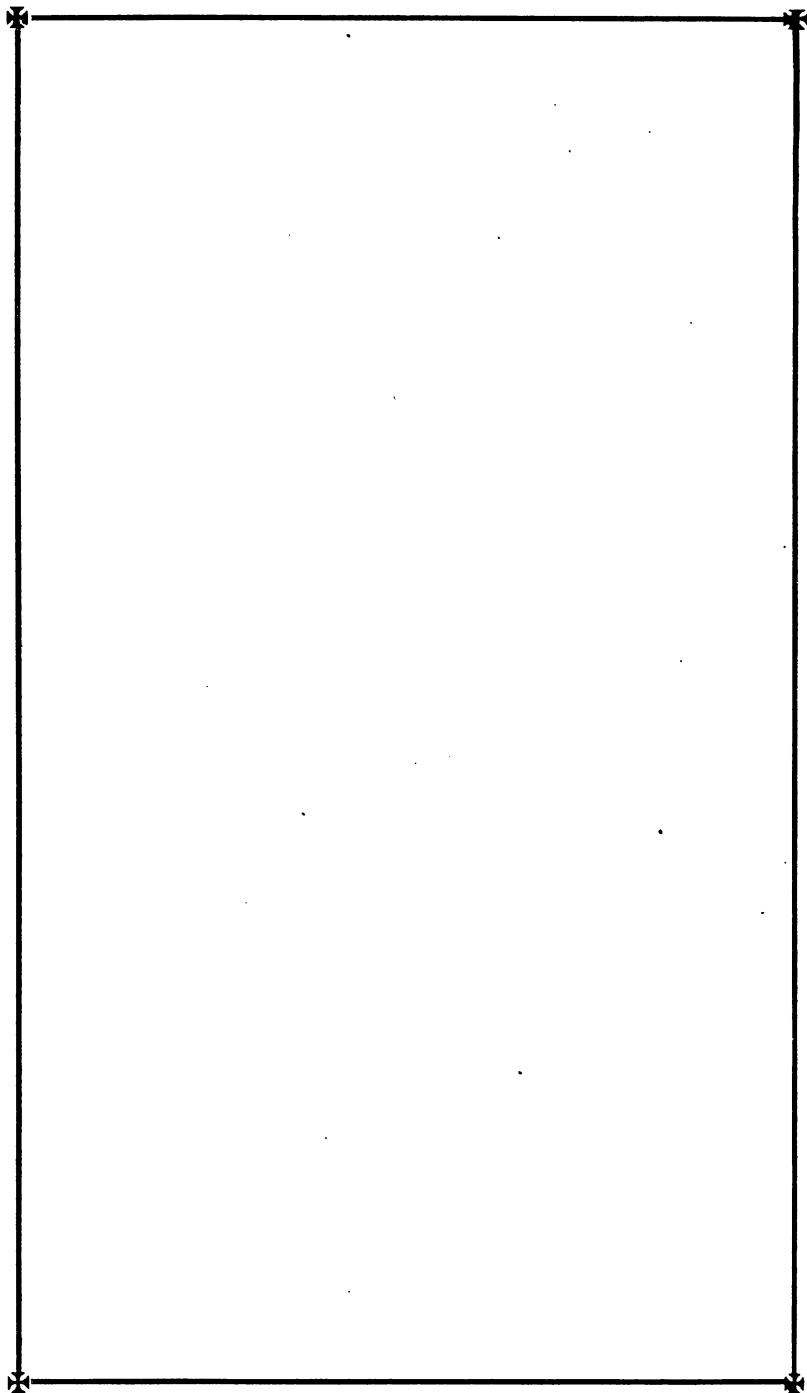












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1886.

OFFICERS OF THE

Grand Commandery, Knights Templar.

OF MICHIGAN.

Sir WILLIAM S. LAWRENCE, Kalamazoo...R. E. Grand Commander.
Sir THOMAS H. WILLIAMS, Jackson, V. E. Deputy Grand Commander.
Sir CHARLES P. BIGELOW, Big Rapids.....E. Grand Generalissimo.
Sir EDWARD W. KELLY, Jonesville.....E. Grand Captain General.
Sir and Rev. FRANCIS A. BLADES, Detroit.....E. Grand Prelate.
Sir JOHN A. GEROW, Marshall.....E. Grand Senior Warden.
Sir WILLIAM G. DOTY, Ann Arbor.....E. Grand Junior Warden.
Sir H. SHAW NOBLE, Monroe.....E. Grand Treasurer.
Sir WILLIAM P. INNES, P. G. C., Grand Rapids....E. Gd. Recorder.
Sir EDWARD C. SMITH, Pontiac.....E. Grand Standard Bearer.
Sir JEFFERSON S. CONOVER, Coldwater.....E. Gd. Sword Bearer.
Sir HENRY L. ANTHONY, Sturgis.....E. Grand Warder.
Sir ALEXANDER McGREGOR, Detroit.....E. Grand Sentinel.

Sir WILLIAM P. INNES, P. G. C., Grand Rapids, Chairman
Committee on Foreign Correspondence.